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MYSTERY IN SPACE
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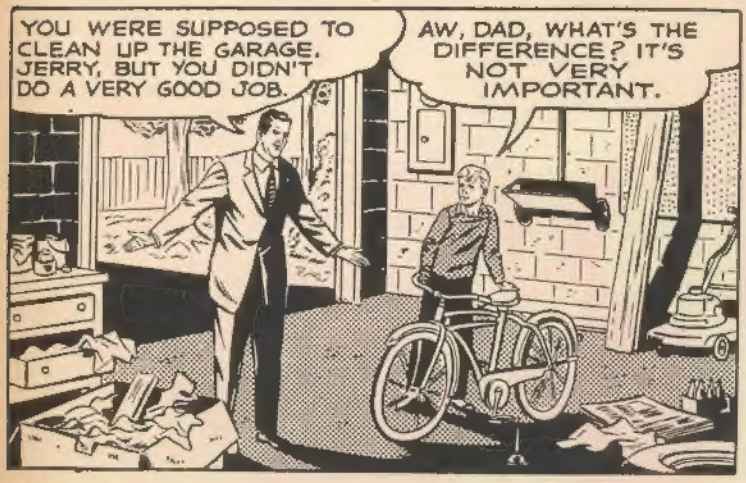
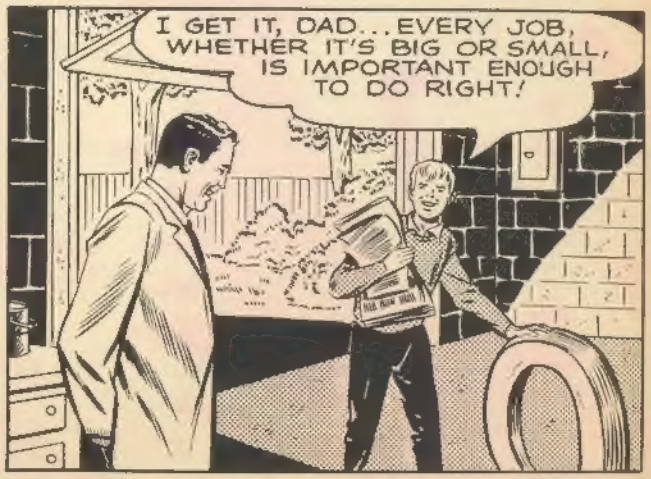
MAY
NO. 83
Featuring "The EMOTION-MASTER of SPACE!"
Plus... A NEW "STAR ROVERS" STORY!
MY EMOTIONIZER IS THE MOST PERFECT WEAPON EVER DEVISED, ADAM STRANGE! IT WILL CHANGE YOU FROM MY FOE-- TO MY FRIEND!

COUNTDOWN ON EXCELLENCE


YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CLEAN UP THE GARAGE, JERRY, BUT YOU DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB.
AW, DAD, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IT'S NOT VERY IMPORTANT.

HMM...WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE, YOU'LL GET INTO SLOPPY WORK HABITS. IF EVERYONE FELT THAT WAY ABOUT HIS JOB, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN?

"OR A GARAGE MECHANIC..."
I JUST HAD MY TIRE CHANGED! THE MECHANIC DIDN'T TIGHTEN THE WHEEL PROPERLY--I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
SCREECH!
CLUNK!



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ADAM STRANGE

YOUNG EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST ADAM STRANGE HAS BEEN THE CHAMPION OF RANN EVER SINCE THAT MOMENTOUS DAY, YEARS BEFORE, WHEN A TELEPORTATIONAL BEAM SNATCHED HIM OFF EARTH AND DEPOSITED HIM ON THE PLANET WHICH CIRCLES THE STAR-SUN ALPHA CENTAURI!

BUT NOW ADAM STRANGE ENCOUNTERS A MENACE ON RANN THAT HE HAS NO DESIRE TO FIGHT! THE TERRIBLE THREAT TO HIS ADOPTED PLANET LEAVES HIM UNMOVED AS HE FALLS VICTIM TO...

The EMOTION-MASTER of SPACE!

LISTEN TO ME, ADAM STRANGE! EVEN THOUGH I REPRESENT THE GREATEST MENACE THAT EVER STRUCK RANN--YOU WILL NOT FIGHT ME!

YES, YOU ARE MY FRIEND--NOT MY ENEMY! WHATEVER DISASTER STRIKES THE PEOPLE OF RANN IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME!

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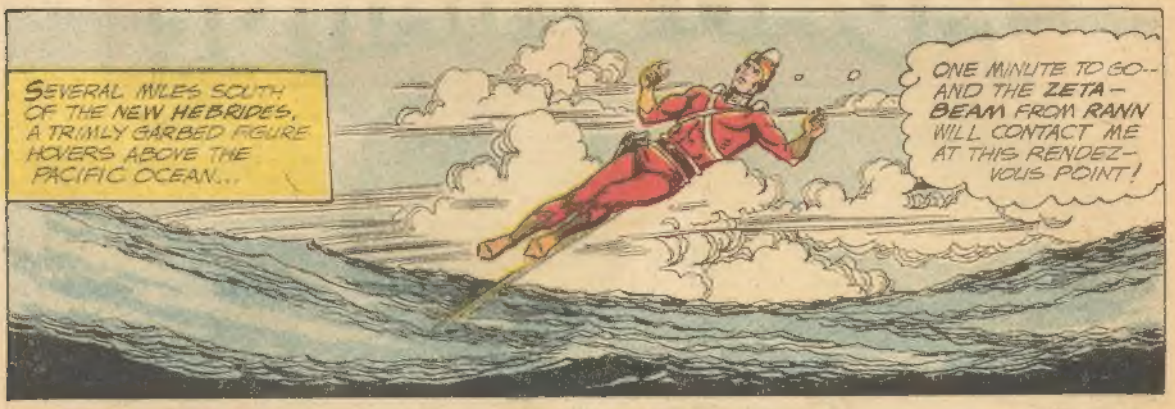

SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF THE NEW HEBRIDES, A TRIMLY GARBED FIGURE HOVERS ABOVE THE PACIFIC OCEAN...
ONE MINUTE TO GO-- AND THE ZETA-BEAM FROM RANN WILL CONTACT ME AT THIS RENDEZ-VOUS POINT!

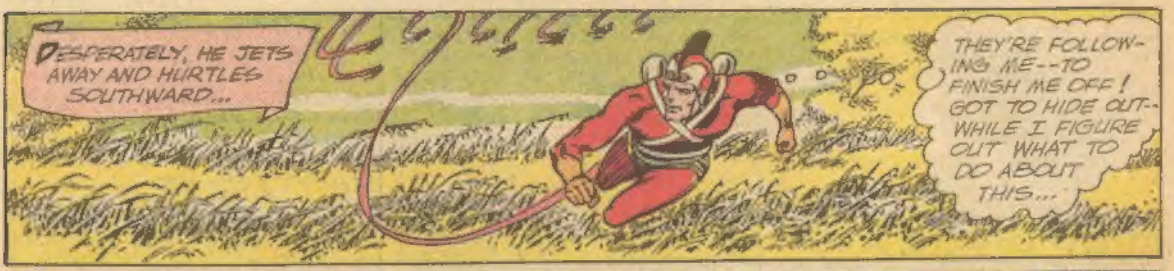
BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN A SUB-MARINE VOLCANO ERUPTS AND IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THE CRUST OF THE EARTH RISES UPWARD TO FORM A NEW ISLAND.
OHH! I'M-- BEING FORCED AWAY FROM THE PATH OF THE ZETA-BEAM!

HIS POINT OF CONTACT LOST TO HIM, ADAM STRANGE JETS UP-WARD, THEN TURNS AND REACHES FOR HIS RAY-GUN...
THESE VOLCANO-CREATED ISLANDS ARE NOTHING NEW IN THE PACIFIC. EVEN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS WERE FORMED THAT WAY! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS NEW ISLAND INTER-FERE WITH MY BEING STRUCK BY THE TELEPORTATION-BEAM!

THE FIERCE BLAST OF HIS RANN WEAPON CUTS A TUNNEL IN THE NEWLY FASHIONED ISLAND...
I'LL DROP INTO THE TUNNEL TO THE EXACT SPOT I WAS BEFORE THE ISLAND ROSE UPWARD!

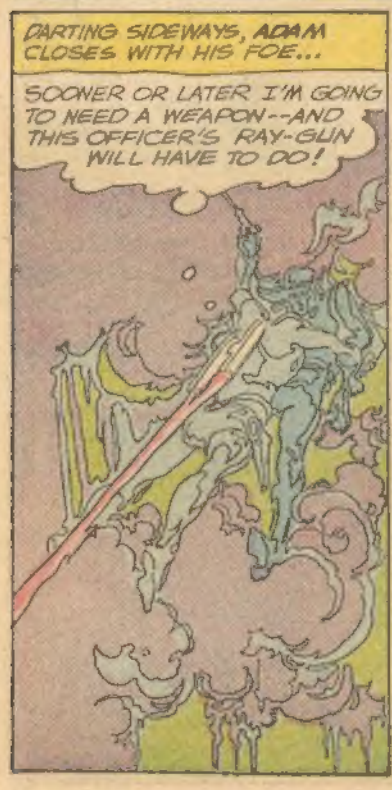
SECONDS LATER, THE AMAZING BEAM FROM RANN STRIKES THE YOUNG EARTHMAN AND HE IS AGAIN TELEPORTED 25 TRILLION MILES ACROSS SPACE TO THE PLANET RANN OF THE STAR-SUN ALPHA CENTAURI, TO MEET HIS SWEETHEART, ALANNA OF RANAGAR ...

AS HE FEELS SOLID GROUND UNDERFOOT, ADAM TURNS TO GREET ALANNA...
ALANNA, HONEY! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
DON'T YOU "HONEY" ME, ADAM STRANGE!
HATE CONTORTING HER LOVELY FEATURES, ALANNA DRAWS HER RAY-GUN AND FIRES AT ADAM..
ALANNA -- WH-WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU? Y-YOU ALMOST HIT ME...!
AGAIN SHE TRIGGERS HER WEAPON-- AND ONLY THE EXTRAORDINARY AGILITY OF HER SWEETHEART SAVES HIS LIFE...
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!
EVERY VISIT TO RANN SEEMS TO INVOLVE ME WITH A MENACE--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THIS TIME IT WOULD BE ALANNA! I'VE GOT TO TRY AND STUN HER BEFORE I--
BUT EVEN AS HE AIMS HIS RAY-GUN...
SHE BLASTED MY GUN! THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS! WITHOUT A WEAPON, IT'D BE TOO RISKY TO TANGLE WITH HER!
AS ADAM JETS TOWARD THE CITY OF RANAGAR, ALANNA FOLLOWS IN SWIFT PURSUIT..
IT'S CLEAR ALANNA'S NOT HERSELF! MAYBE SOMEONE IN RANAGAR WILL KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER HER!
BUT AS THE EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST NEARS THE CITY WALLS, THE WARRIORS OF RANAGAR LET FLY WITH ALL BARRELS...
HUH?! EVEN MY FRIENDS OF RANAGAR HAVE TURNED AGAINST ME! WHY? WHY?


DESPERATELY, HE JETS AWAY AND HURTLES SOUTHWARD...
THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME--TO FINISH ME OFF! GOT TO HIDE OUT--WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS...

AT PULSE-STUNNING SWIFTNESS HE APPROACHES THE "MISTY LANDS" FORMED BY STEAMING GEYSERS WHICH MAKE A NATURAL HIDING SPOT...
I'VE OUTDISTANCED THEM! I'LL HIDE IN THOSE MISTS UNTIL THEY GIVE UP THE SEARCH FOR ME!

THEN--UPWARD FROM THE SHELTERING GEYSERS COMES A RANAGARAN OFFICER...
I HAVE YOU, ADAM STRANGE! I WAS ON PATROL WHEN I HEARD A BROADCAST THAT YOU WERE HEADED THIS WAY!


DARTING SIDEWAYS, ADAM CLOSES WITH HIS FOE...
SOONER OR LATER I'M GOING TO NEED A WEAPON--AND THIS OFFICER'S RAY-GUN WILL HAVE TO DO!

DRIVING THE OFFICER HARD AGAINST THE GROUND, ADAM YANKS THE WEAPON FROM HIS LIMP FINGERS...
NOW WHEN HE COMES TO, HE'LL ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON!
EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU IS TRUE, ADAM STRANGE! YOU DO, INDEED, MAKE A FORMIDABLE FOE!

RIGID IN SURPRISE, THE EARTHMAN "LISTENS" TO A DISTANT MENTAL VOICE...
I HOPED YOUR FORMER FRIENDS WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED YOU AS MY ENEMY--BUT YOU PROVED TOO MUCH FOR THEM!
THE "VOICE" MUST BELONG TO WHOEVER IT IS THAT TURNED ALANNA AND THE OTHERS AGAINST ME!

IF I FLY ABOUT IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES--AND "HE" KEEPS TALKING TO ME--I OUGHT TO GET A FIX ON HIS POSITION!
I WANTED YOU OUT OF THE WAY, ADAM STRANGE, TO MAKE MY TASK ON RANN THAT MUCH EASIER!

IN SWEEPING CIRCLES, ADAM MOVES AWAY FROM THE MISTY LANDS...
I INTEND TO SHIFT RANN THROUGH SPACE TO A NEW ORBITAL POSITION ABOUT A STAR-SUN HALF A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY!
AH! IT'S COMING IN REAL CLEAR FROM THIS ANGLE!

ROCKETING TOWARD THE UNSEEN BEING WHOSE "VOICE" GROWS MOMENTARILY LOUDER IN HIS MIND, THE EARTHMAN SOON SEES...
WHILE YOU KNOW THE MENACE FACING YOUR ADOPTED PLANET--YOU WON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE FIGHTING OR WHERE TO FIND ME!
I ALREADY KNOW WHERE HE IS--AND PRETTY SOON I'LL SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!

AT MULTI-MACH SPEED, ADAM SWOOPS TOWARD THE ALIEN INVADER...
AH--YOU FOUND ME! CLEVER, ADAM STRANGE--BUT I'M ONE ENEMY AGAINST WHOM ALL YOUR CLEVERNESS IS OF NO USE!
SURRENDER--OR I'LL RAY-BLAST YOU!

SURRENDER? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! YOUR PUNY WEAPON WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE ALLOYS THAT MAKE UP MY COILODYNE! GO AHEAD--TRY IT!

IN THE NEXT INSTANT A SHOWER OF DEADLY RAYS BATHES THE STRANGE CRAFT CALLED A COILODYNE...
YOU SEE? NO HARM DONE TO ME OR MY MACHINE! BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE--MY EMOTIONIZER WILL FINISH YOU AS A THREAT TO ME!

FROM THE GENERATORS ATOP THE COIL MACHINE, TITANIC LIGHTNINGS STAB OUT TO HIT AND ENGULF ADAM STRANGE...
MY EMOTIONIZER IS THE MOST PERFECT WEAPON EVER DEVISED, ADAM STRANGE! IT WILL CHANGE YOU FROM MY FOE--INTO MY FRIEND!

HALF-DAZED, ADAM BRAKES HIS PLUMMETING FALL BY SHEER INSTINCT...
GOT TO GO BACK UP--FIGHT THAT CREATURE AGAIN!
IMPOSSIBLE! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU CANNOT FIGHT ME ANY-MORE, ADAM STRANGE!

HE LANDS GENTLY ON THE GROUND--AND TO HIS VAST SURPRISE DISCOVERS THAT...
WHY--THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU! AS A MATTER OF FACT--I EVEN LIKE YOU... MY FRIEND!
EXACTLY! AND YOU HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT A FRIEND! SO--FAREWELL WHILE I PROCEED TO SHIFT RANN INTO ORBIT ABOUT MY OWN SUN HALF A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY!

THE ALIEN'S MENACING RANN--BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO--OR WANT TO DO--TO STOP HIM!
MY EMOTIONIZER CAN CREATE LOVE--HATE--GREED--DESPAIR! I MADE ADAM LIKE ME--JUST AS I MADE ALANNA HATE HIM! AND NOW FOR THE PLANETARY SWITCH-OVER!..
Story continues on THIRD page following.

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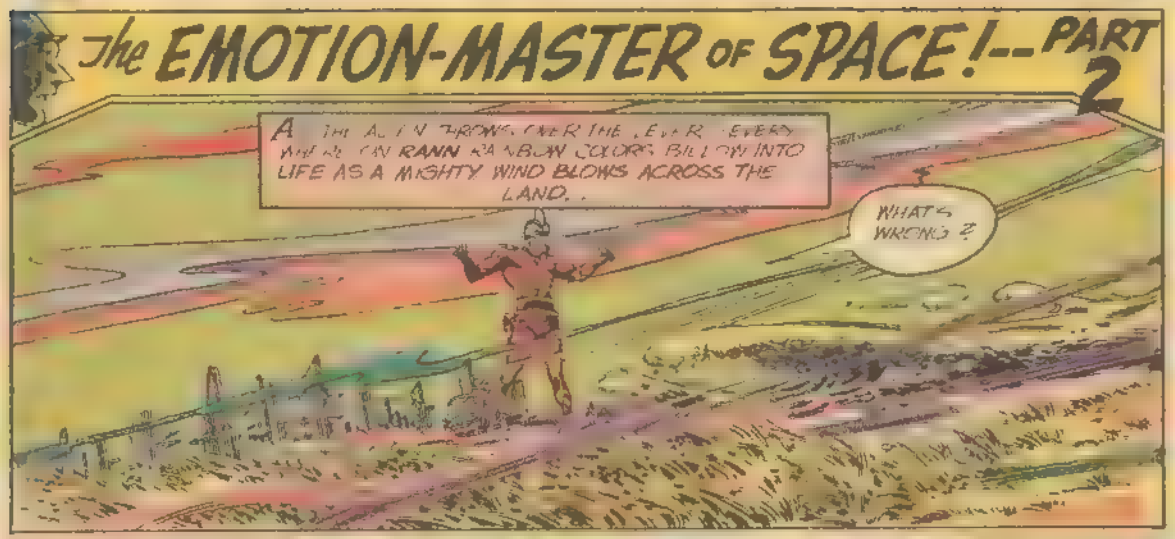
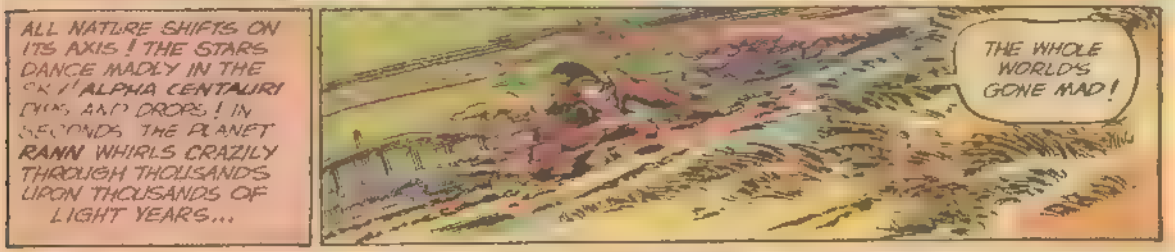
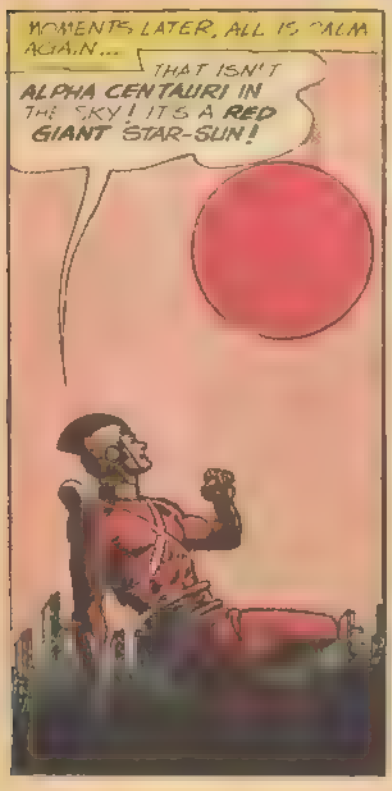
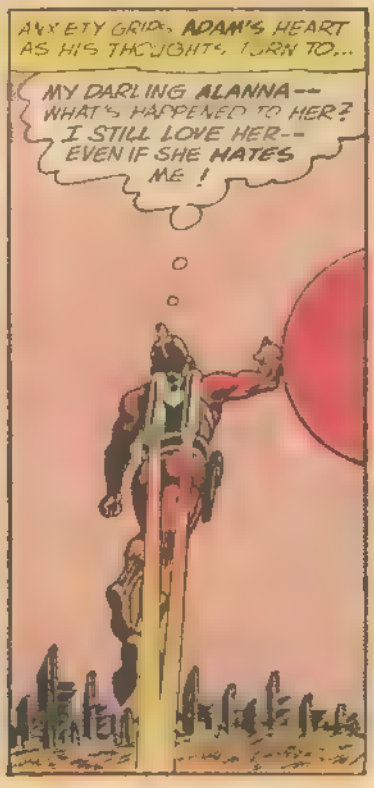
The EMOTION-MASTER of SPACE!--PART 2


A THE ALIEN THROWS OVER THE LEVER! EVERY NERVE ON RANN'S RAINBOW COLORS BILLOW INTO LIFE AS A MIGHTY WIND BLOWS ACROSS THE LAND...
WHAT'S WRONG?

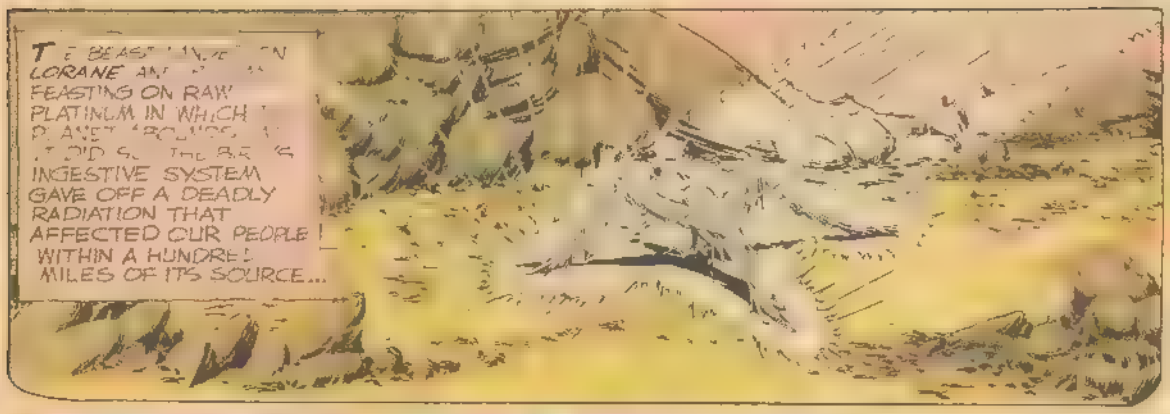

ALL NATURE SHIFTS ON ITS AXIS! THE STARS DANCE MADLY IN THE SKY! ALPHA CENTAURI DIVES AND DROPS! IN SECONDS THE PLANET RANN WHIRLS CRAZILY THROUGH THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF LIGHT YEARS...
THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE MAD!

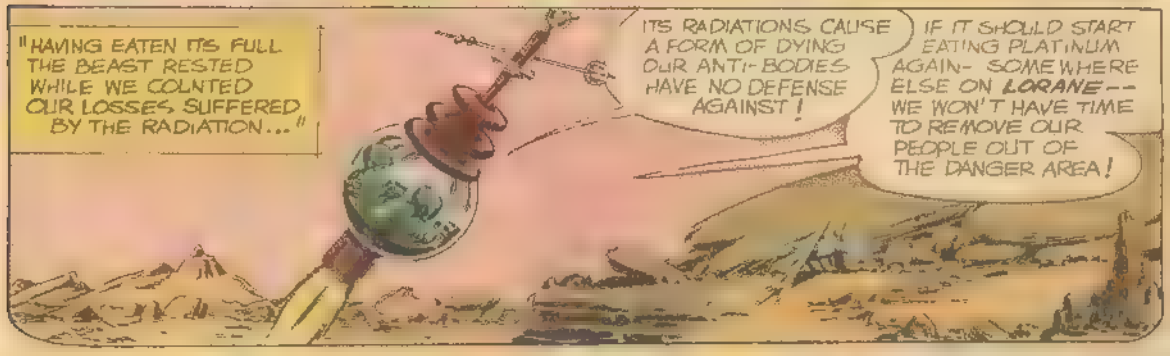


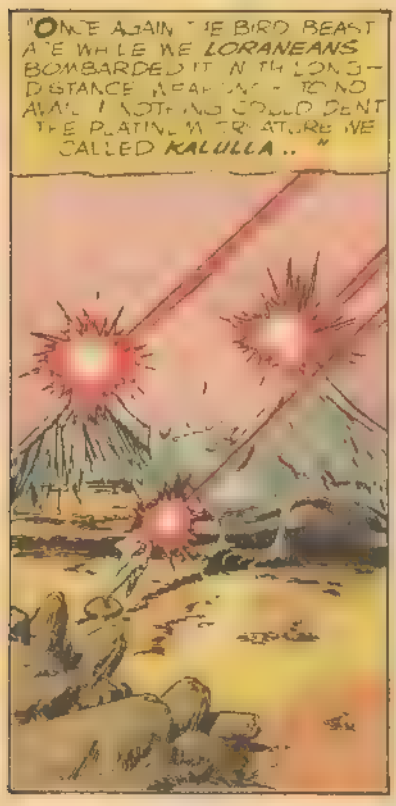

ANXIETY GRIPS ADAM'S HEART AS HIS THOUGHTS TURN TO...
MY DARLING ALANNA--WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER? I STILL LOVE HER--EVEN IF SHE HATES ME!

WHEN HE REACHES THE OUTSKIRTS OF RANAGAR...
ADAM--I SAW YOU COMING THIS WAY! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE STILL HERE! I--I'M SO SORRY AND ASHAMED FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER...

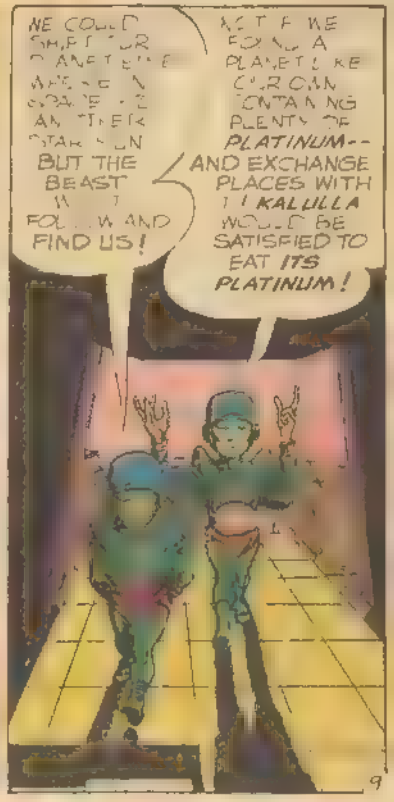
FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THE RE-UNITED INTERPLANETARY SWEETHEARTS CLING TOGETHER
I WAS COMPELLED TO HATE YOU! I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! BUT WHEN WE WERE SHIFTED THROUGH SPACE--IT CAUSED THE COMPULSION TO DIE OUT!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT THE ALIEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! HE'S NO LONGER MY FRIEND--BUT MY BITTER ENEMY!
AS TEARS STAIN HER CHEEKS, ALANNA EXPLAINS, BROKENLY:
I--I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I SHOT AT YOU--BUT I WAS HELPLESS TO STOP MYSELF! I HATE YOU SO MUCH I HAD TO TRY AND DESTROY YOU!
I MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU! JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME SHUDDER!
RANN
WHY
RANN
OH, I CAN TELL YOU THAT, ADAM! JUST BEFORE HE SHIFTED RANN, THE ALIEN--HIS NAME IS LO PAU--APPEARED BEFORE RANAGAR AND EXPLAINED...
"I AM A NATIVE OF LORANE, A PLANET OF THE RED STAR SUN SHANADAR! THE PEOPLE OF LORANE ARE MAGNETY SCIENTISTS AND HAVE CONQUERED ALL DISEASE BY CREATING ANTI-BODIES IN OUR BLOOD WHICH DESTROYED HARMFUL VIRUSES AND GERMS!
NONE OF US WILL EVER DIE FROM NATURAL CAUSES!
IN A SENSE WE ARE IMMORTAL!
"WE THOUGHT WE WERE IMMORTAL! THEN, SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A PLATINUM-SKINNED BIRD WAS SPOTTED WINGING A PATH THROUGH SPACE..."
ITS WINGS MUST UTILIZE COSMIC RADIATION FORCES TO FLY THROUGH SPACE!


THE BEAST HAVING EATEN ON LORANE AND [illegible] FEASTING ON RAW PLATINUM IN WHICH PLANET [illegible] AND SO THE BEAST'S INGESTIVE SYSTEM GAVE OFF A DEADLY RADIATION THAT AFFECTED OUR PEOPLE WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF ITS SOURCE...


"HAVING EATEN ITS FULL THE BEAST RESTED WHILE WE COUNTED OUR LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE RADIATION..."
ITS RADIATIONS CAUSE A FORM OF DYING OUR ANTI-BODIES HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST!
IF IT SHOULD START EATING PLATINUM AGAIN- SOMEWHERE ELSE ON LORANE-- WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO REMOVE OUR PEOPLE OUT OF THE DANGER AREA!

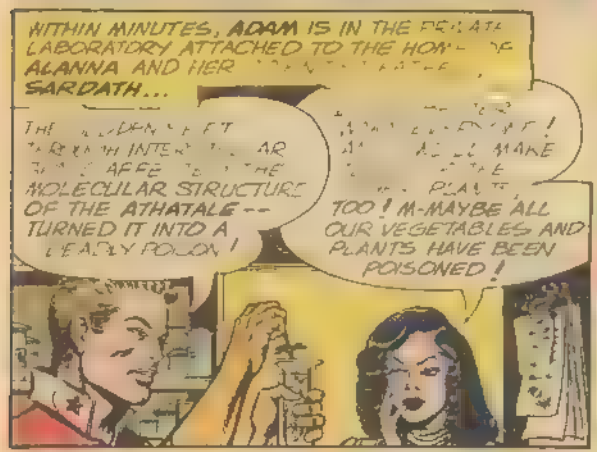

"ONCE AGAIN THE BIRD BEAST ATE WHILE WE LORANEANS BOMBARDED IT WITH LONG-DISTANCE WEAPONS - TO NO AVAIL! NOTHING COULD DENT THE PLATINUM CREATURE WE CALLED KALULLA.."

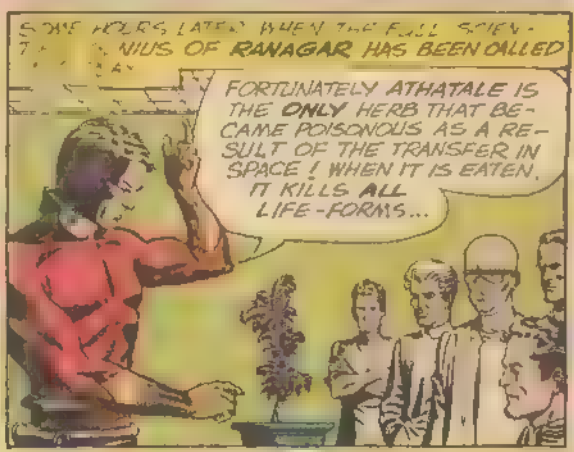
"KALULLA LEFT OUR WORLD ONLY TO RETURN AGAIN AND AGAIN AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS, UNTIL..."
BY LIVING ON OUR PLANET AND NOT RISKING THE COSMIC PERILS OF SPACE-TRAVEL, WE HAVE MANAGED TO BECOME [illegible] UNTIL NOW!
BUT NOW WE MUST [illegible] SPACE-- OR PERISH BECAUSE OF THAT BIRD-- BEAST!

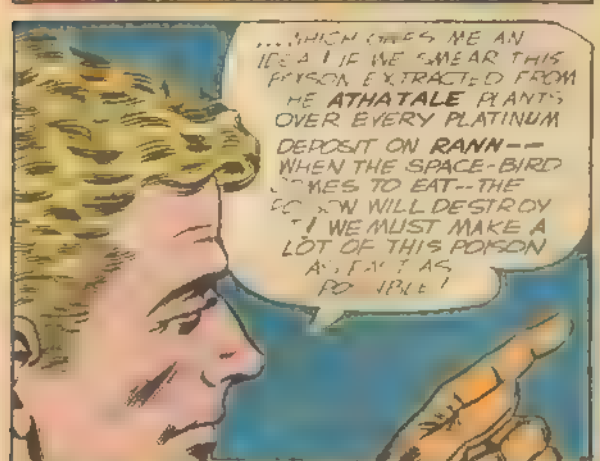

WE COULD SHIFT OUR PLANET'S [illegible] AND NOT RISK THE COSMIC PERILS OF SPACE-TRAVEL BUT THE BEAST WOULD FOLLOW AND FIND US!
NOT IF WE FOUND A PLANET LIKE OUR OWN CONTAINING PLENTY OF PLATINUM-- AND EXCHANGE PLACES WITH IT! KALULLA WOULD BE SATISFIED TO EAT ITS PLATINUM!

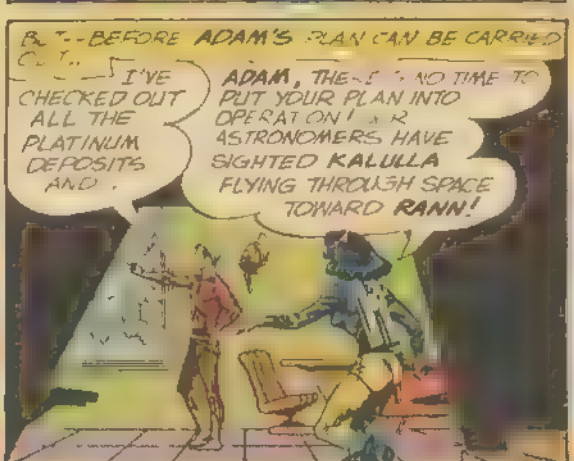
"THE SEARCH TOOK A LONG TIME BUT FINALLY I FOUND RANN AND STUDIED IT WHILE MAKING TESTS..."
BY MAKING THE COIL-ODYNE INVISIBLE, NO ONE ON RANN CAN DETECT MY PRESENCE! THE PLANET IS THE EXACT SIZE AND MASS OF LORANE! AND IT HAS VAST DEPOSITS OF PLATINUM!
"I WATCHED AS ADAM STRANGE DEMONSTRATED HIS RIGHT TO BE CALLED 'CHAMPION OF RANN'..."
THE ONLY THING I HAVE TO FEAR ON RANN IS THIS ADAM STRANGE -- WHO SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO THINK HIS WAY OUT OF ANY TRAP AND OVERCOME ANY MENACE!
"I WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED! I HAD A WEAPON NOT EVEN THE GREAT ADAM STRANGE COULD FIGHT! UNSEEN BY ANYONE, I PLAYED IT UPON RANAGAR THROUGH ITS ATMOSPHERE..."
NOW ALANNA AND HER PEOPLE WILL HATE ADAM STRANGE ENOUGH TO TRY AND DESTROY HIM!
AS ALANNA CONCLUDES LO PALI'S STORY..
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, DARLING! RANN IS HALF A MILLION LIGHT YEARS FROM ALPHA CENTAURI. AND THE WORST PART OF IT IS -- THE SPACE-BIRD KALULLA IS DUE TO ARRIVE HERE VERY SOON!
SIDE BY SIDE AND HAND IN HAND, THE YOUNG LOVERS ENTER ALANNA'S HOUSE GARDENS IN RANAGAR.
WHEN KALULLA LANDS ON RANN AND BEGINS INGESTING OUR PLATINUM -- ITS RADIATION WILL KILL OUR PEOPLE JUST AS IT DID THE LORANEANS, BECAUSE OUR BODY STRUCTURE IS SIMILAR TO THEIRS.
SUDDENLY ALANNA CRIES OUT IN HORROR AND DISMAY...
OHH ADAM -- LOOK! MY PET PUPPY..

FALLING TO HER KNEES, SHE GATHERS HER PET INTO HER ARMS...
IT IS DEAD! SOMEONE HAS KILLED IT
IT WAS EATING THIS PLANT. I'LL CALL ATHATALE. HMMMM... I WONDER?

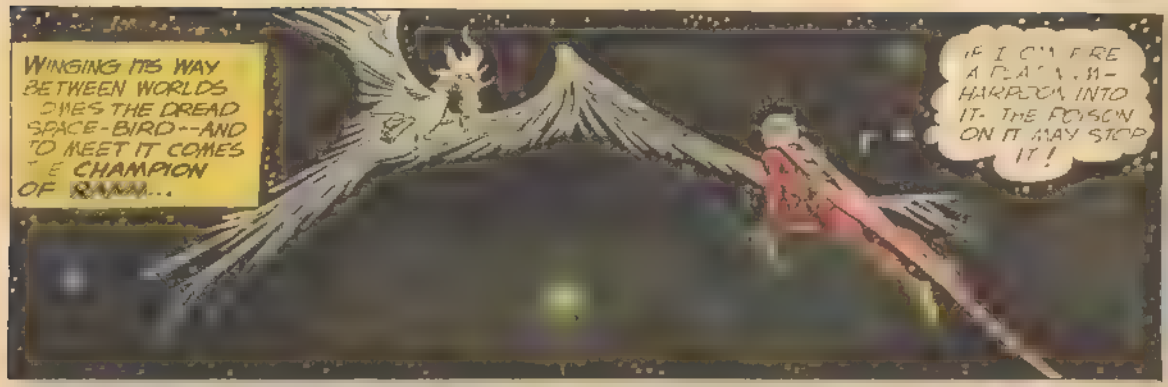

WITHIN MINUTES, ADAM IS IN THE PRIVATE LABORATORY ATTACHED TO THE HOME OF ALANNA AND HER FATHER, SARDATH...
THE GOLDEN LEAF IS FROM AN INTERPLANETARY AREA! SOMETHING HAS AFFECTED THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE ATHATALE -- TURNED IT INTO A DEADLY POISON!
ANOTHER PLANET! ALL MAKE THE PLANTS TOO! M-MAYBE ALL OUR VEGETABLES AND PLANTS HAVE BEEN POISONED!

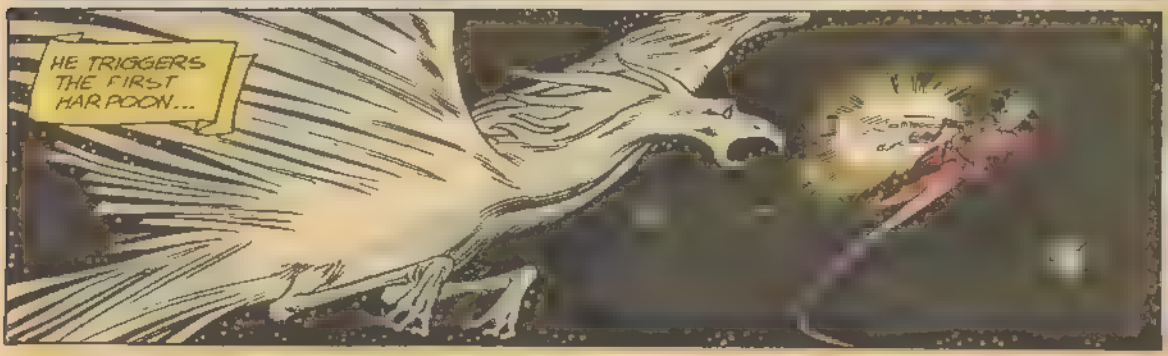

SOME HOURS LATER, WHEN THE FULL SCIENTIFIC GENIUS OF RANAGAR HAS BEEN CALLED
FORTUNATELY ATHATALE IS THE ONLY HERB THAT BECAME POISONOUS AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSFER IN SPACE! WHEN IT IS EATEN, IT KILLS ALL LIFE-FORMS...

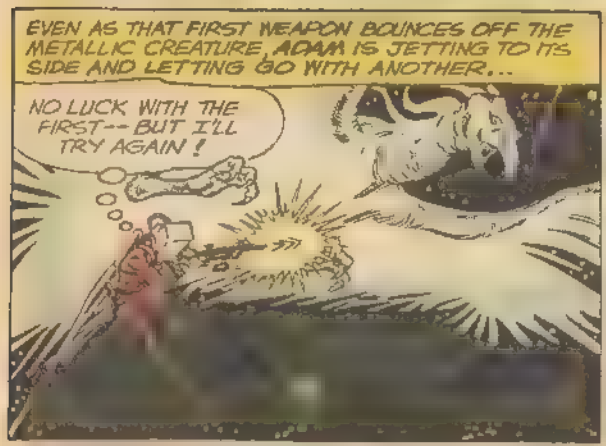

...WHICH GIVES ME AN IDEA! IF WE SMEAR THIS POISON EXTRACTED FROM THE ATHATALE PLANTS OVER EVERY PLATINUM DEPOSIT ON RANN -- WHEN THE SPACE-BIRD COMES TO EAT -- THE POISON WILL DESTROY IT! WE MUST MAKE A LOT OF THIS POISON AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

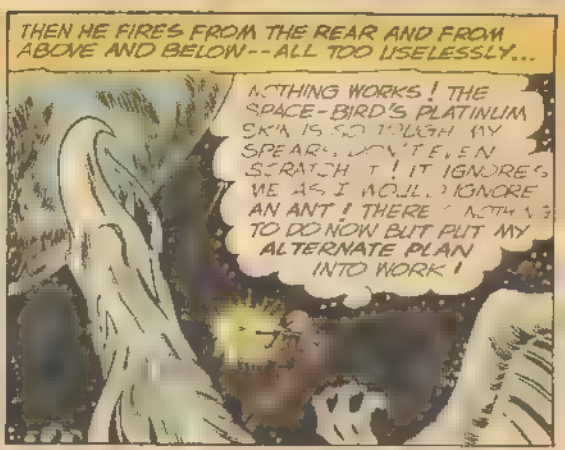

BUT -- BEFORE ADAM'S PLAN CAN BE CARRIED OUT...
I'VE CHECKED OUT ALL THE PLATINUM DEPOSITS AND...
ADAM, THERE'S NO TIME TO PUT YOUR PLAN INTO OPERATION! OUR ASTRONOMERS HAVE SIGHTED KALULLA FLYING THROUGH SPACE TOWARD RANN!

THEN I HAVE TO GO INTO SPACE TO HIT THE BIRD-BEAST WITH SPECIAL HARPOONS COATED ALL OVER WITH THAT POISON! I MUST TRY AND PREVENT IT FROM LANDING ON RANN! WE CAN'T WAIT UNTIL IT LANDS AND THEN COAT THE PLATINUM IT IS EATING BECAUSE WE'D BE IMMEDIATELY KILLED BY ITS INGESTIVE RADIATION!

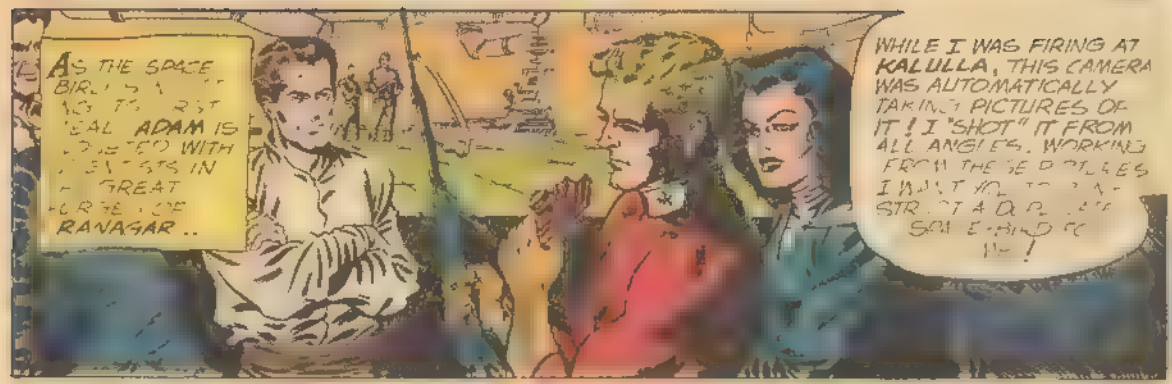

WINGING ITS WAY BETWEEN WORLDS COMES THE DREAD SPACE-BIRD--AND TO MEET IT COMES THE CHAMPION OF RANN...
IF I CAN FIRE A BARB-HARPOON INTO IT- THE POISON ON IT MAY STOP IT!


HE TRIGGERS THE FIRST HARPOON...


EVEN AS THAT FIRST WEAPON BOUNCES OFF THE METALLIC CREATURE, ADAM IS JETTING TO ITS SIDE AND LETTING GO WITH ANOTHER...
NO LUCK WITH THE FIRST--BUT I'LL TRY AGAIN!

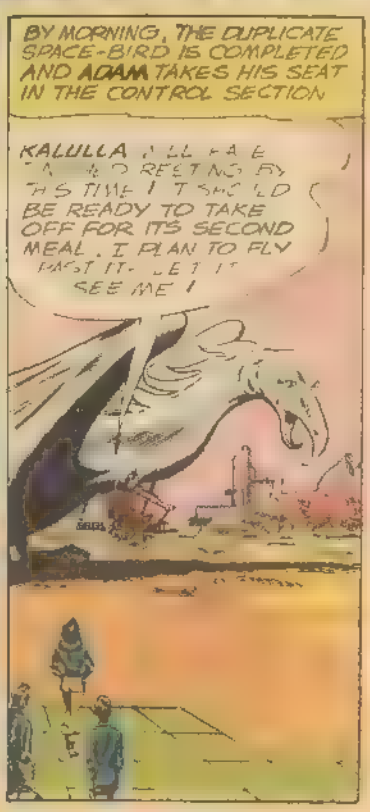

THEN HE FIRES FROM THE REAR AND FROM ABOVE AND BELOW--ALL TOO USELESSLY...
NOTHING WORKS! THE SPACE-BIRD'S PLATINUM SKIN IS SO TOUGH MY SPEARS WON'T EVEN SCRATCH IT! IT IGNORES ME AS I WOULD IGNORE AN ANT! THERE'S NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT PUT MY ALTERNATE PLAN INTO WORK!

AS ADAM STRANGE [illegible] HELPLESSLY, A TERRIBLE KALULLA FLAPS [illegible] RANN'S ATMOSPHERE AND OVER ITS VAST GRASSLANDS...
FORTUNATELY IT SEEMS TO BE SETTLING DOWN OVER AN UNPOPULATED REGION SO NO ONE WILL BE HARMED! NOW I'D BETTER GET BACK TO RANAGAR--FAST!

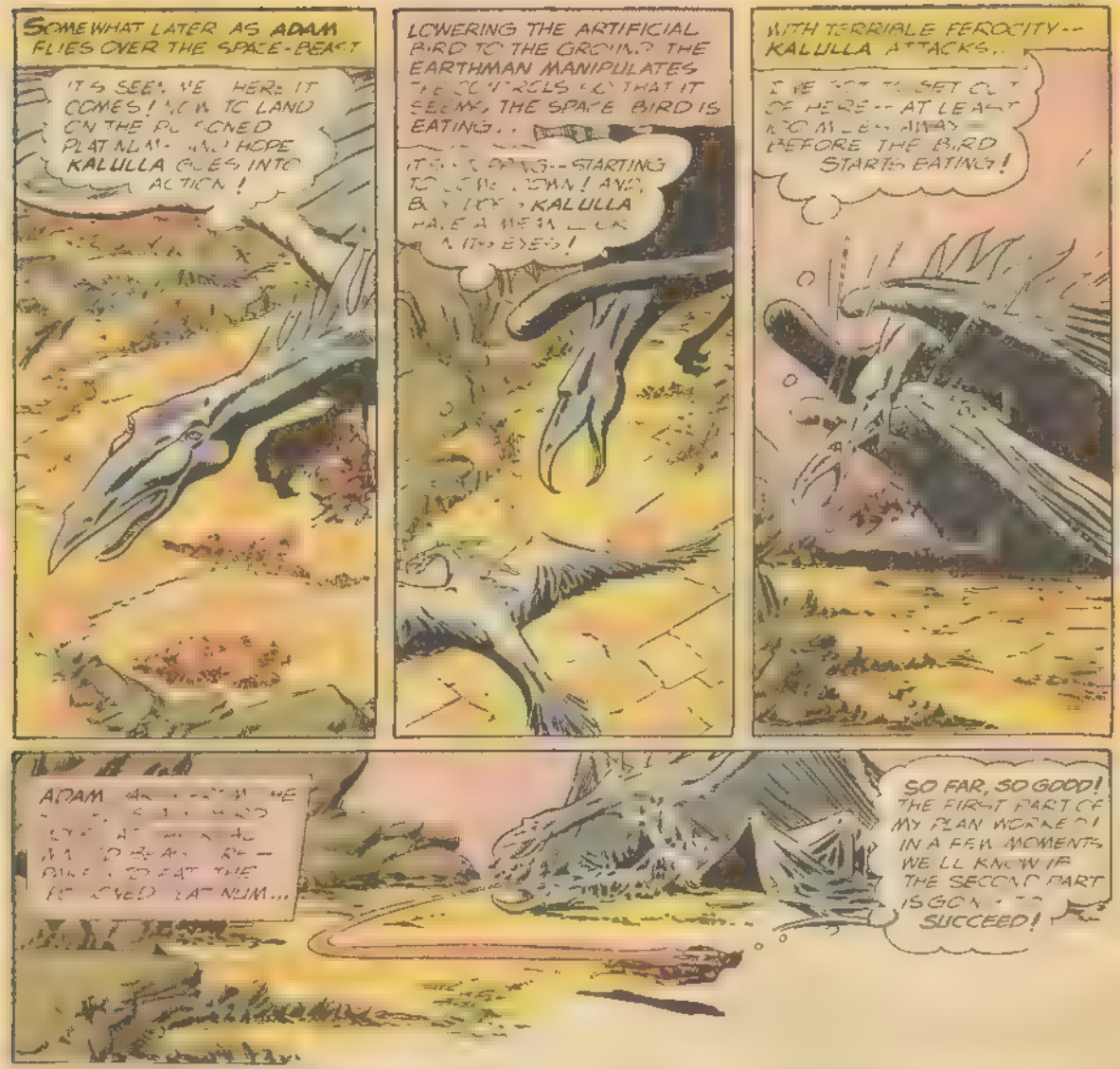

AS THE SPACE BIRD'S [illegible] TO ITS [illegible] SEAL ADAM IS [illegible] WITH [illegible] IN A GREAT [illegible] RANAGAR..
WHILE I WAS FIRING AT KALULLA, THIS CAMERA WAS AUTOMATICALLY TAKING PICTURES OF IT! I "SHOT" IT FROM ALL ANGLES. WORKING FROM THESE DATA I MUST TRY TO CONSTRUCT A DUPLICATE SOME-WHERE!

IN [illegible] RESTS [illegible] THE FORCE [illegible] AND THE [illegible] DIES BEGIN THEIR TASK...
A SMALL MOTOR INSIDE IT WILL OPERATE THE IMITATION BEAST.. AND ENABLE ME TO FLAP ITS WINGS!
[illegible]

[illegible] MUST MAKE IT WORK! [illegible] CRYSTAL [illegible] DEPOSIT OF PLATINUM [illegible] COMPARED WITH [illegible] ATHATALE POISON! I PROVED [illegible] KALULLA TO THAT DEPOSIT [illegible] IT WILL ATTRACT THE [illegible] METAL! MY SCHEME FOR ACCOMPLISHING THAT IS [illegible] MAKE KALULLA THINK A REAL SPACE-BIRD IS GOING TO EAT IT... FOOD!


BY MORNING, THE DUPLICATE SPACE-BIRD IS COMPLETED AND ADAM TAKES HIS SEAT IN THE CONTROL SECTION
KALULLA [illegible] BY THIS TIME I SHOULD BE READY TO TAKE OFF FOR ITS SECOND MEAL. I PLAN TO FLY PAST IT- LET IT SEE ME!

RISING UPWARD, PLATINUM WINGS FLAP BACK AND FORTH AS ADAM STRANGE GUIDES HIS MECHANICAL BIRD SKYWARD..
AFTER THAT-- I JUST HOPE NATURE TAKES ITS COURSE!


SOMEWHAT LATER AS ADAM FLIES OVER THE SPACE-BEAST
IT'S SEEN WE HERE IT COMES! NOW TO LAND ON THE PLANNED PLATFORM AND HOPE KALULLA GOES INTO ACTION!
LOWERING THE ARTIFICIAL BIRD TO THE GROUND THE EARTHMAN MANIPULATES THE CONTROLS SO THAT IT SEEMS THE SPACE BIRD IS EATING...
IT'S WORKING--STARTING TO DISSOLVE DOWN! AND BY JOVE KALULLA HAS A HEAD-ACHE IN ITS EYES!
WITH TERRIBLE FEROCITY--KALULLA ATTACKS..
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--AT LEAST TWO MILES AWAY BEFORE THE BIRD STARTS EATING!
ADAM
SO FAR, SO GOOD! THE FIRST PART OF MY PLAN WORKED! IN A FEW MOMENTS WE'LL KNOW IF THE SECOND PART IS GOING TO SUCCEED!
AND ALANNA WATCH FROM A SAFE DISTANCE AS THE GREAT SPACE BIRD INGESTS ITS FOOD. THEN...
IT WORKED! KALULLA'S COLLAPSING!
THE POISON WAS TRANSFORMED INTO DEADLY RADIATION BY THE BEAST'S IN-GESTIVE SYSTEM AND--FINISHED IT!

JETTING TO THE SCENE OF THE POISONED PLATINUM DEPOSITS, THE DARING DUO IS STARTLED BY THE MENTAL "VOICE" OF LOPALU...

CONGRATULATIONS, ADAM STRANGE! YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT OUR SCIENTISTS COULD NOT! YOU HAVE DE-STROYED OUR NEMESIS, KALULLA!

THE IDEA OF POISON WAS UNKNOWN TO US--SINCE POISON COULD NOT HARM OUR BODIES! AS A REWARD--WE ARE SHIFTING RANN BACK TO ITS NORMAL POSITION IN SPACE WHILE WE RETURN LORANE TO ITS OWN SUN!

THE RAINBOW COLORS COME AND GO--AND ONCE AGAIN THE EARTH MAN AND RANN GIRL STARE AT A FAMILIAR SIGHT.

THERE IT IS--OUR OWN ALPHA CENTAURI!

IT'S IRONIC THAT IN ORDER FOR ME TO SAVE LORANE FROM KALULLA--RANN HAD TO BE SHIFTED ACROSS INTER-STELLAR SPACE TO ATHATALE-POISON COULD BE FORMED!

AND IT'S A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT WHEN THE ZETA-BEAM STRIKES NEXT TIME ON EARTH*, I'LL BE TELEPORTED TO RANN--AND NOT THE PLANET OF LORANE!

YES. IF RANN HAD REMAINED 500,000 LIGHT YEARS AWAY ORBITING AROUND THAT RED STAR- I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

*EDITOR'S NOTE:

BUT ADAM STRANGE IS [illegible] A SHOCKING SURPRISE THE NEXT TIME HE TRIES TO CONTACT THE ZETA-BEAM ON EARTH! INTERRUPTING THE TELE-PORTATION BEAM AND TRAVELING TO RANN IN HIS STEAD WILL BE ADAM'S NEMESIS--THE DUST DEVIL! DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING STORY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTERY IN SPACE!

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WONDERS OF SPACE

Dear Editor: I have just finished reading the December *Mystery in Space*, and feel that I have to write and tell you how much I enjoyed it.

Carmine Infantino never ceases to amaze me. His future art is what makes him my favorite comic book illustrator.

Despite the fine story, I did find an error in "The Deadly Shadows of Adam Strange." On page 14, last panel, *Adam* says: "You thought I'd gone back to Earth—but actually I stepped into one of my own shadows—to avoid casting a shadow and betray my presence here!" Actually, there was no need for *Adam* to step into a shadow. The reason an object is visible is that light rays are being reflected, and that is what causes a shadow—light rays being blocked and reflected back in the direction from which they came. Since *Adam* was invisible, light rays were passing through him. Because of this, no shadow was being cast that would reveal his presence. This means that there should not be a shadow of *Adam* as was depicted in the last two panels on page 14.

In winding up my letter, I would like to say that I enjoy the *Star Rovers* stories and think that the "question" titles are a very good idea. Keep them up!

Brett Newman, 12 Clifford Pl., The Bronx 53, N. Y.

(Our critic's shadow-objections are correct—without a shadow of a doubt!—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: As all sincere readers of *Mystery in Space* have already said, I can't see how you can keep up with such original stories . . . and they get better all the time too! But for plot and excitement, it doesn't seem to me how you will top "The Deadly Shadows of Adam Strange."

I especially liked how *Adam* was swished back to Earth at the wrong moment and even contacted a disease; and how *Alanna's* father so casually returned to *Ranagar* after his disappearance. All I can say is that such seemingly useless details really keep one in suspense.

In my opinion, thinking plots are the best kind. Of course, careless narration or artwork can ruin even the best plots. That's another feather in your cap . . . good writers and good artists! Doesn't maintaining that load of feathers on your head every issue give you headaches?

John Yee, 527 4th St., Marysville, Calif.

(Any headaches we develop come not from feathers in our cap but from the *absence* of them!—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: Many readers have written in giving suggestions on how *Alanna* can be brought to Earth. This would be a dangerous proposition. For once on Earth, *Adam* could marry *Alanna* and there would be no reason at all why he should wish to journey to *Rann* any more. Unless *Alanna* wished to visit her father, there would hardly be any urgency to journey to *Rann* and *Adam* would be left to fight menaces on Earth like any other superhero. And besides, it makes a welcome change to see another planet used as a battleground other than our own.

Peter Phillips,
149 King St., Oldham, Lancashire, England

(Such a perfectly logical answer ought to silence those vociferous diehards who keep trying to get *Alanna* to Earth—but somehow we doubt that the clamor will cease.—*Edior*)

Dear Editor: It seems that with each *Adam Strange* story I read, I become more and more convinced that perhaps he's the finest character published to date since super-heroes began. It would seem that a strip based on the premise that *Adam's* would, after a short while, become something of sheer boredom and the stories, plots and menaces merely repetitions of previous ones. However, thanks to the painstaking plotting, characterization and originality that you so flawlessly incorporate into each superb story, the strip is one of the finest ever created.

Another very prevalent fact that makes *Adam Strange* stand out is the artwork—the finest in the history of comics. Carmine Infantino's exciting and beautiful and ultra-modern design techniques forming the pencils, guided by Murphy Anderson's ever so competent inks, combine together to make this artwork unsurpassable.

Now getting down to this issue, "The Deadly Shadows of Adam Strange" was superb. Many comics would have handled a shadow menace very poorly by making the shadows something sickeningly alien and plotting the story in a trite manner. However, you wisely didn't overdo the alien bit, kept the menace within believability and even followed the so-often forgotten task of characterizing to a reasonable extent the villain.

I liked the idea of picking up the story exactly where the previous one left off—thus giving a more realistic feeling to the strip. The action in the story was just the right amount and not overdone. It was interesting, for a change, not to see *Adam* go back to Earth at the story's end. And never stop adding those touches of human interest to your stories—they give a story life and spice.

Paul Seydor, R D 1, Imperial, Pa

* * *

This issue's award-winners: Peter Phillips cops the cover illustration for "The Deadly Shadows of Adam Strange"; the original artwork pages for Part One of "Deadly Shadows" go to Paul Seydor; Part Two to John Yee; "Who Saved the Earth?" art awarded to Brett Newman.

Address mail to WONDERS OF SPACE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. We regret that due to the volume of mail received, no questions can be answered personally.

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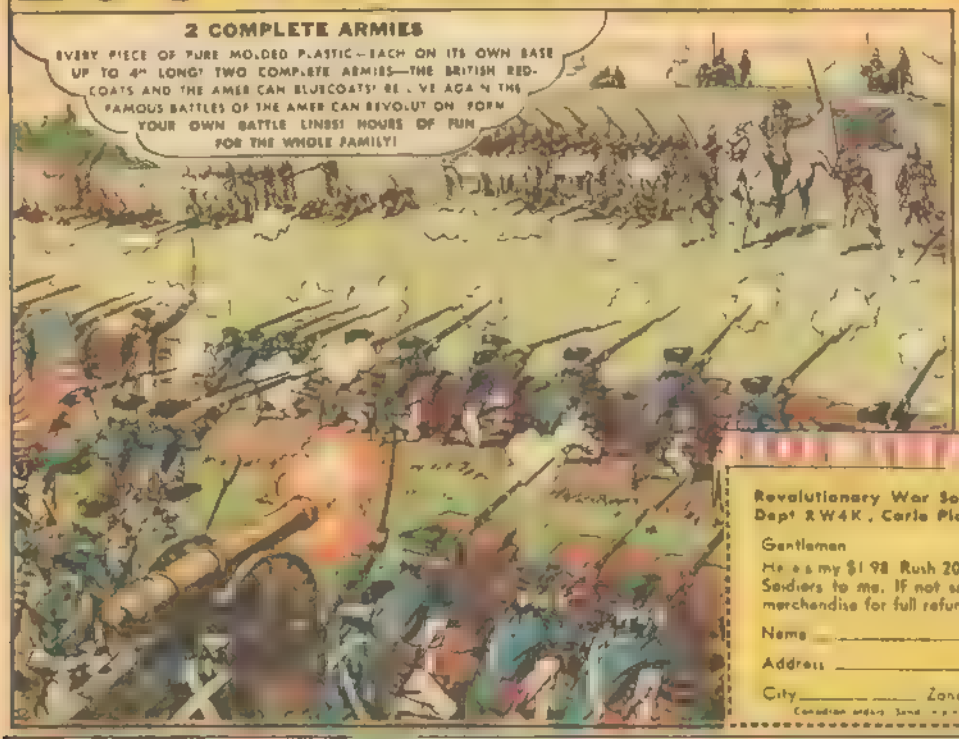

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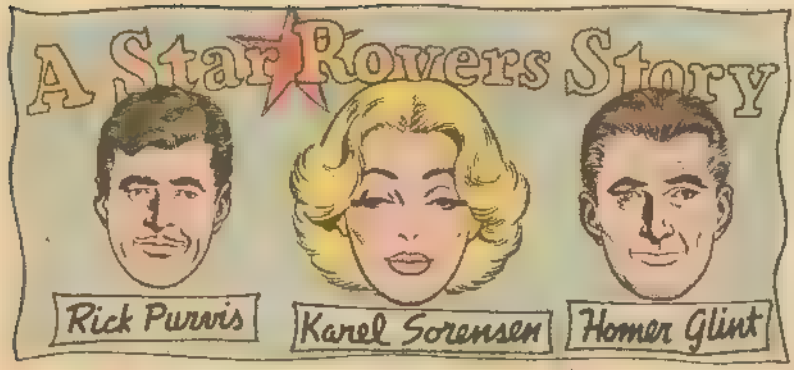
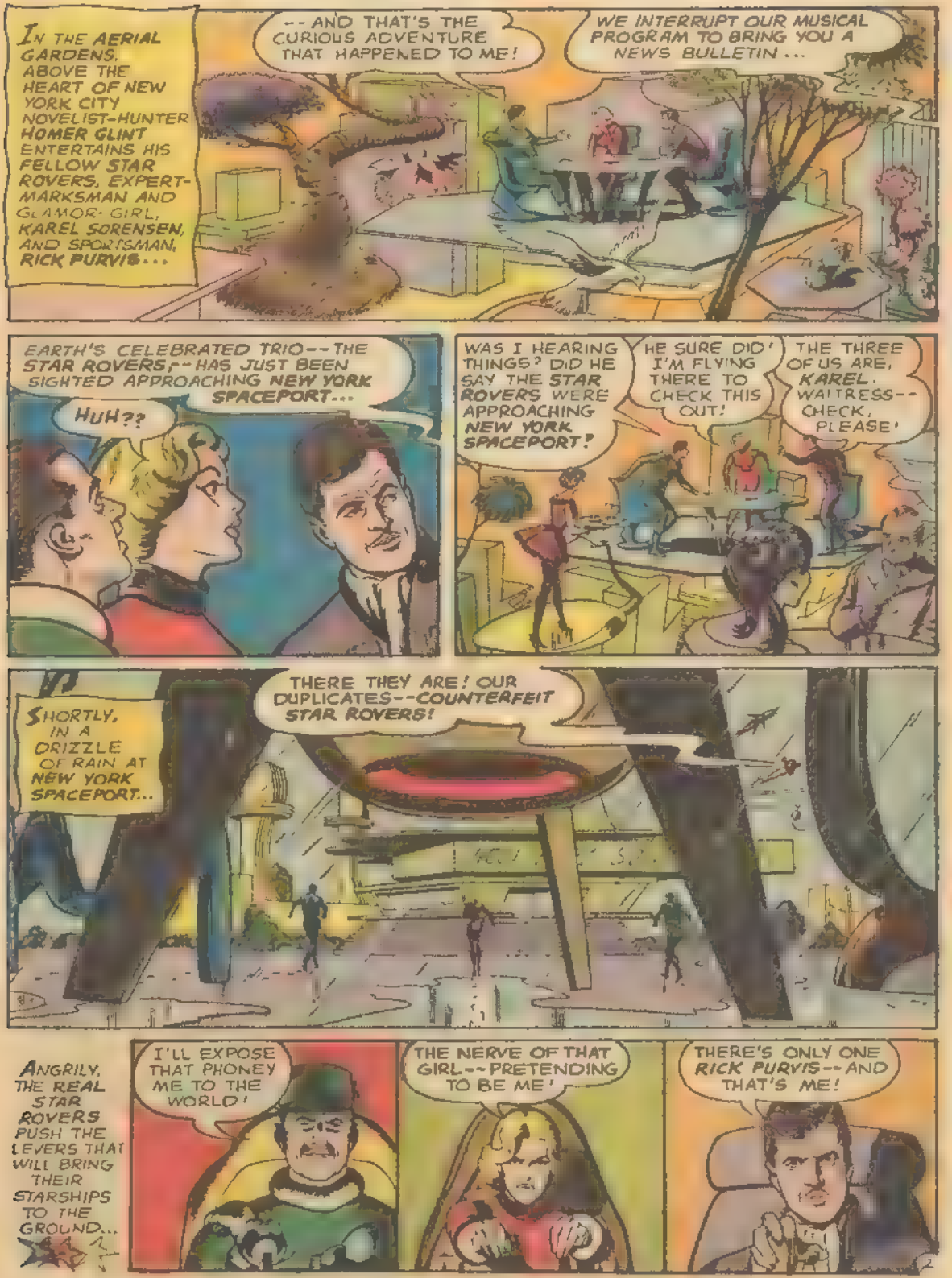


FOR UNTOLD AGES THE **THINKING MACHINE** LAY AMID THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT PLANET--WAITING AND HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO GO INTO ACTION! WHEN AT LAST ITS OPPORTUNITY CAME, THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF UNSUSPECTING EARTH-MEN WERE AT STAKE! ONLY THE **STAR ROVERS** KNEW OF THE THREAT--BUT BEFORE THEY COULD FIND AND DESTROY THE MACHINE, THEY HAD TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF...

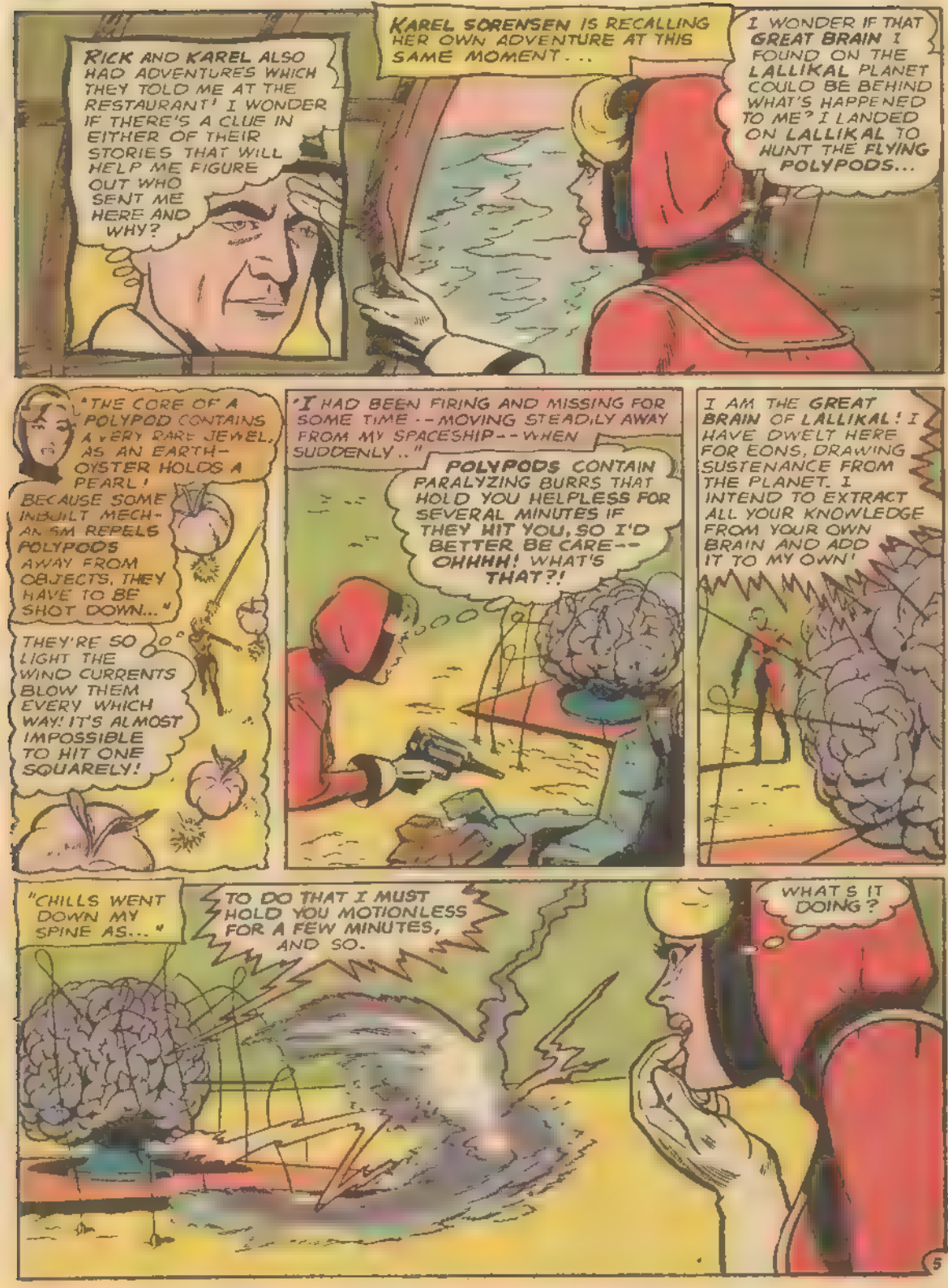
Who went where... and why?

MY WEAPON HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF DESTROYING THAT *THINKING MACHINE* MENACE!
YOU'RE WRONG, *HOMER!* ONLY MY WEAPON WILL WORK AGAINST THAT *MACHINE!*
NEITHER OF YOUR WEAPONS WILL DO THE TRICK--BUT MINE WILL!

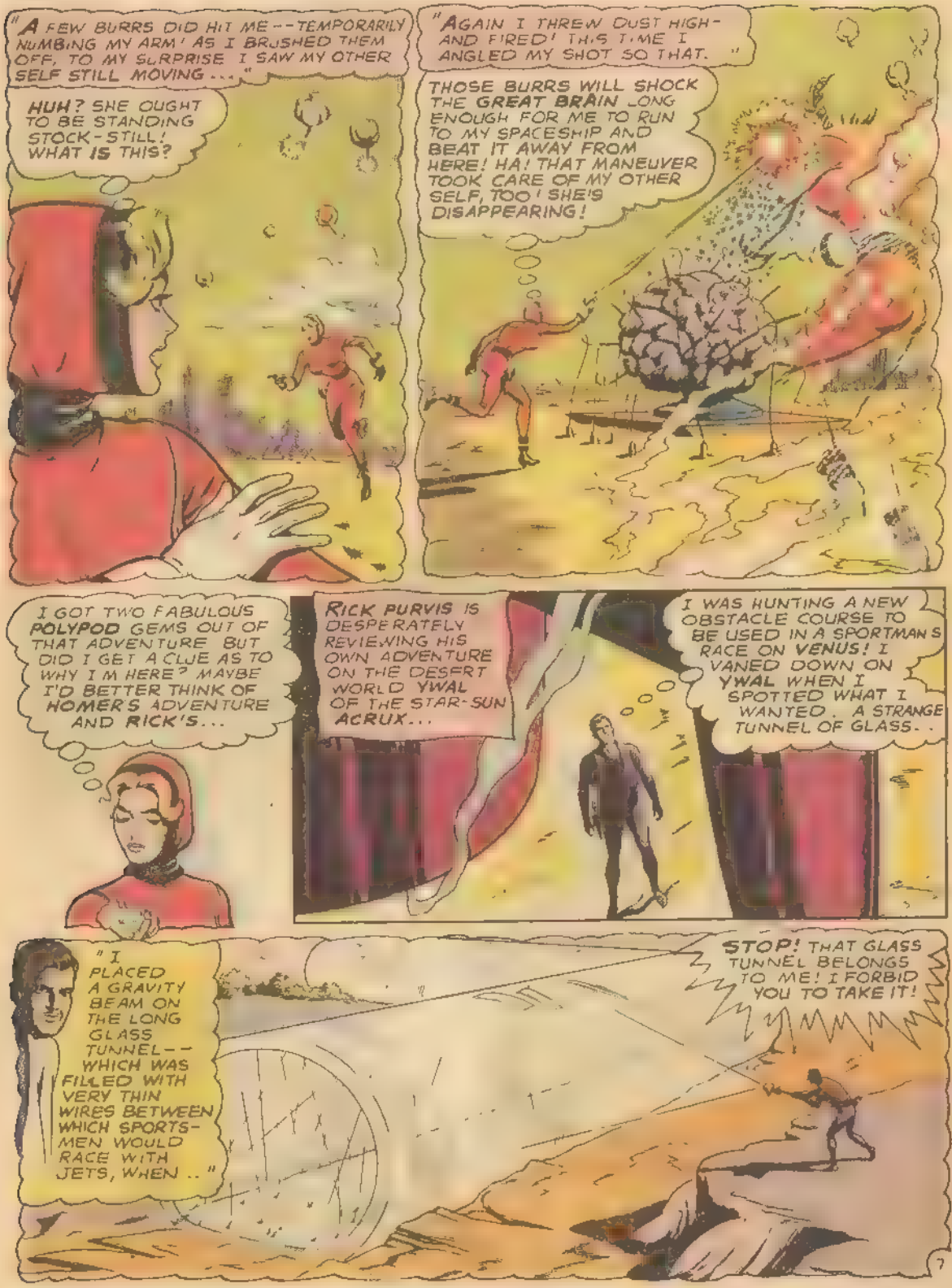

IN THE AERIAL GARDENS, ABOVE THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY NOVELIST-HUNTER HOMER GLINT ENTERTAINS HIS FELLOW STAR ROVERS, EXPERT-MARKSMAN AND GLAMOR-GIRL, KAREL SORENSEN, AND SPORTSMAN, RICK PURVIS...
--AND THAT'S THE CURIOUS ADVENTURE THAT HAPPENED TO ME!
WE INTERRUPT OUR MUSICAL PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A NEWS BULLETIN...
EARTH'S CELEBRATED TRIO--THE STAR ROVERS,--HAS JUST BEEN SIGHTED APPROACHING NEW YORK SPACEPORT...
HUH??
WAS I HEARING THINGS? DID HE SAY THE STAR ROVERS WERE APPROACHING NEW YORK SPACEPORT?
HE SURE DID! I'M FLYING THERE TO CHECK THIS OUT!
THE THREE OF US ARE, KAREL. WAITRESS--CHECK, PLEASE!
SHORTLY, IN A DRIZZLE OF RAIN AT NEW YORK SPACEPORT...
THERE THEY ARE! OUR DUPLICATES--COUNTERFEIT STAR ROVERS!
ANGRILY, THE REAL STAR ROVERS PUSH THE LEVERS THAT WILL BRING THEIR STARSHIPS TO THE GROUND...
I'LL EXPOSE THAT PHONEY ME TO THE WORLD!
THE NERVE OF THAT GIRL--PRETENDING TO BE ME!
THERE'S ONLY ONE RICK PURVIS--AND THAT'S ME!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THEY OPEN THE DOORS OF THEIR SPACESHIPS
I--I'VE LANDED ON AN ICE WORLD!
WHERE DID EARTH GO ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHERE DID I GO--AND WHY? YIKES, THAT WATER'S COLD!
THIS ISN'T NEW YORK SPACEPORT! WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED?
HOMER GLINT SHIVERS AS AN ENERGY BLAST CUTS THROUGH HIM.
WHO WERE THOSE IMPOSTORS? HOW DID I GET HERE? HMMM--I WONDER IF MY RECENT ADVENTURE ON THE PLANET DRAHUT COULD GIVE ME A CLUE? I TOLD IT TO RICK AND KAREL AT AERIAL GARDENS...
"I WAS HUNTING FOR NEW GAME IN THE CAPELLAN SYSTEM WHEN I CAME TO AN OLD, DESERTED PLANET..."
NO SIGN OF LIFE HERE AT ALL! THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING RUINS, THOUGH... AND SINCE I'M A WRITER AS WELL AS A HUNTER, MAYBE I CAN FIND A STORY IDEA BELOW!
"AFTER LANDING, I BEGAN SEARCHING THE OLD RUBBLE UNTIL IN A CLEARED SPACE I CAME FACE TO FACE WITH..."
A THINKING MACHINE--FROM THE LOOKS OF IT!
AT LAST! AN INTELLIGENT CREATURE HAS LANDED ON THIS PLANET!
"THE NEXT THING I KNEW, STRANGE RAYS WERE EMANATING FROM THAT GREAT MASS OF METAL AND..."
THE MACHINE'S FASHIONING SOMETHING FROM THOSE BEAMS!
"THEN I WAS FACING MYSELF! DRESSED AS I WAS DRESSED, ARMED AS I WAS ARMED. MY OTHER SELF LIFTED HIS RAYER AND..."
YIIII!
WHAT'S HE HUNTING ME!

I SET OUT AT A RUN, DRAGGING A ROPE FROM MY EQUIPMENT BAG BEHIND ME TO BLOT OUT MY TRACKS.. "
GO O GET FAR ENOUGH AHEAD-- SO I CAN TURN AND SQUEEZE OFF A SHOT TO STOP "MYSELF" FROM BAGGING ME!
I FIRED-- BUT MISSED! I BACK TRACKED. B..T MY OTHER SELF WAS JUST AS GOOD A HUNTER AS I AND NEVER LET UP "
ONLY ONE THING TO DO! I'LL PLAY ON A WEAKNESS OF MINE. WHEN I'M HUNTING AND I'M CLOSE TO MY QUARRY-- I GET RECKLESS AND CLOSE IN FOR "THE KILL"! I'VE BEEN HIDING AND I'LL DELIBERATELY LET MYSELF BE SEEN!
BUT FIRST I'LL SET THIS TRAP BETWEEN THESE NARROW WALLS SO "I" WILL BE SURE TO STEP ON IT. "MY" WEIGHT WILL TRIGGER IT AND CAPTURE "ME"!
SURE ENOUGH WHEN I SAW ME, 'I' BEGAN RUNNING, EAGER TO BRING DOWN 'MY' PREY! IT WAS THEN, IN MID-STRIDE, THAT 'I' TRIGGERED THE TRAP... "
'THE NEXT INSTANT, BARS OF IMPENETRABLE LIGHT LIFTED UPWARD-- HOLDING 'ME' ABSOLUTELY MOTIONLESS... "
THAT LIGHT-TRAP IS USED TO CATCH ANIMALS FOR ZOOS, UNHARMED AND SAFE! NOW I'LL ASK "MYSELF" WHY HE TRIED TO SHOOT ME!
'BEFORE 'I' COULD ANSWER 'I' FADED OUT--WHEREUPON I DECIDED TO GET OFF THE PLANET BEFORE THE MACHINE SENT ANY MORE COPIES OF 'ME' AFTER ME... "
NO SENSE STAYING HERE ANY LONGER! I'VE GOT A PLOT FOR A STORY, ALL RIGHT!


RICK AND KAREL ALSO HAD ADVENTURES WHICH THEY TOLD ME AT THE RESTAURANT! I WONDER IF THERE'S A CLUE IN EITHER OF THEIR STORIES THAT WILL HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHO SENT ME HERE AND WHY?
KAREL SORENSEN IS RECALLING HER OWN ADVENTURE AT THIS SAME MOMENT...
I WONDER IF THAT GREAT BRAIN I FOUND ON THE LALLIKAL PLANET COULD BE BEHIND WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? I LANDED ON LALLIKAL TO HUNT THE FLYING POLYPODS...
"THE CORE OF A POLYPOD CONTAINS A VERY RARE JEWEL, AS AN EARTH-OYSTER HOLDS A PEARL!
BECAUSE SOME INBUILT MECHANISM REPELS POLYPODS AWAY FROM OBJECTS, THEY HAVE TO BE SHOT DOWN..."
THEY'RE SO LIGHT THE WIND CURRENTS BLOW THEM EVERY WHICH WAY! IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO HIT ONE SQUARELY!
"I HAD BEEN FIRING AND MISSING FOR SOME TIME--MOVING STEADILY AWAY FROM MY SPACESHIP--WHEN SUDDENLY.."
POLYPODS CONTAIN PARALYZING BURRS THAT HOLD YOU HELPLESS FOR SEVERAL MINUTES IF THEY HIT YOU, SO I'D BETTER BE CARE-- OHHHH! WHAT'S THAT?!
I AM THE GREAT BRAIN OF LALLIKAL! I HAVE DWELT HERE FOR EONS, DRAWING SUSTENANCE FROM THE PLANET. I INTEND TO EXTRACT ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE FROM YOUR OWN BRAIN AND ADD IT TO MY OWN!
"CHILLS WENT DOWN MY SPINE AS..."
TO DO THAT I MUST HOLD YOU MOTIONLESS FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND SO.
WHAT'S IT DOING?

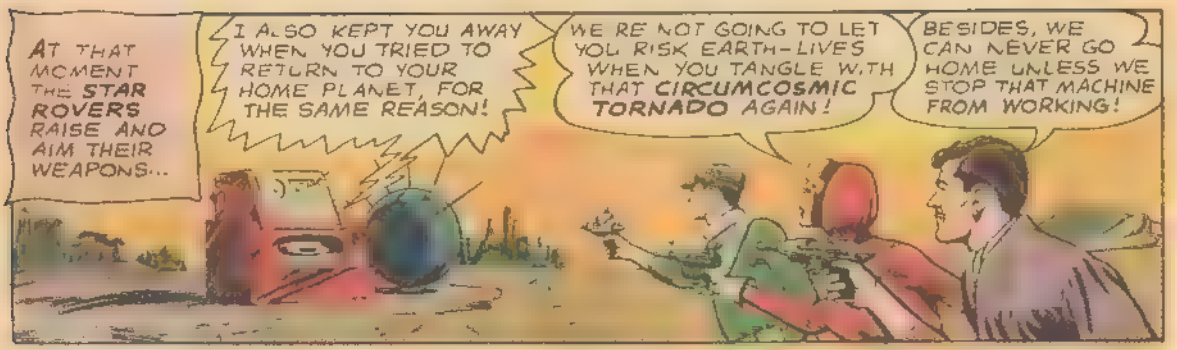
"OUT OF THE SWIRLING DUST EMERGED MY OWN DOUBLE--EQUIPPED WITH A POLYPOD-GUN--AS THE GREAT BRAIN WENT ON TELEPATHING ITS THOUGHTS..."
NATURALLY, YOU WILL PERISH WHEN I ADD YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO MINE, BUT YOU WILL GO ON LIVING FOREVER INSIDE ME, SO TO SPEAK!
GEE, THANKS--BUT I RATHER BE MYSELF!
"MY OTHER SELF LIFTED HER GUN AND BLASTED AT A FLYING POLYPOD OVERHEAD! I DOVE SIDEWAYS JUST IN CASE SHE SCORED A HIT..."
MY BULLETS ARE DESIGNED TO BRING DOWN ONLY POLYPODS! I CAN'T USE THEM AGAINST MY OTHER SELF--OR AGAINST THE GREAT BRAIN!
"SUDDENLY I HAD AN IDEA! I SCOOPED UP A HANDFUL OF DUST FROM THE GROUND AND THREW IT HIGH..."
MY ONLY CHANCE TO SCORE A HIT IS TO KNOW IN ADVANCE WHERE THE POLYPOD IS GOING! THE WAY TO DO THAT IS TO "SEE" THOSE WIND CURRENTS WITH THE HELP OF THIS DUST!
"I ZEROED IN ON A POLYPOD WITH MY GUN-SIGHT, THEN SQUEEZED OFF A SHOT JUST WHEN THE POLYPOD WAS ABOVE MY DOUBLE..."
"MY BULLET PLOUGHED HOME IN THE POLYPOD, SENDING A SHOWER OF PARALYZING BURRS OVER MY FOE..."
THAT PUTS HER OUT OF ACTION, WHOOPS! SOME OF THOSE BURRS GOING TO HIT ME! GOT TO DODGE ASIDE!

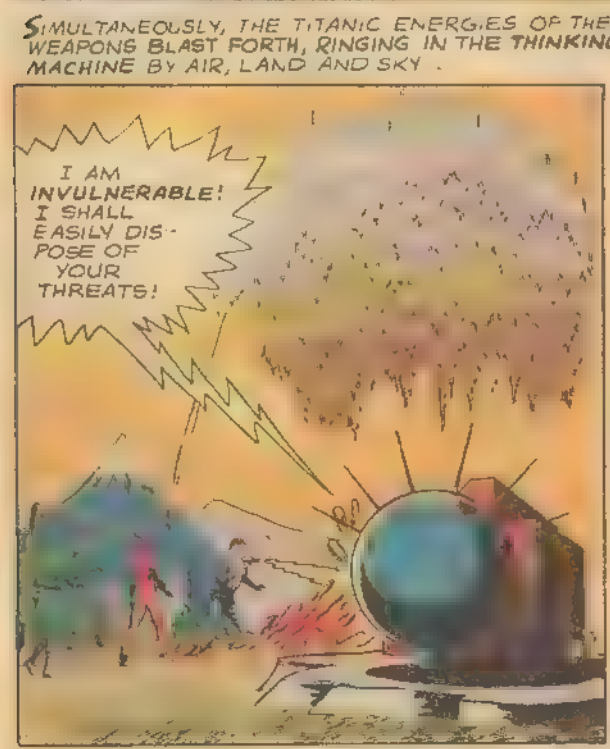

"A FEW BURRS DID HIT ME--TEMPORARILY NUMBING MY ARM! AS I BRUSHED THEM OFF, TO MY SURPRISE I SAW MY OTHER SELF STILL MOVING..."
HUH? SHE OUGHT TO BE STANDING STOCK-STILL! WHAT IS THIS?
"AGAIN I THREW DUST HIGH-AND FIRED! THIS TIME I ANGLED MY SHOT SO THAT."
THOSE BURRS WILL SHOCK THE GREAT BRAIN LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO RUN TO MY SPACESHIP AND BEAT IT AWAY FROM HERE! HA! THAT MANEUVER TOOK CARE OF MY OTHER SELF, TOO! SHE'S DISAPPEARING!
I GOT TWO FABULOUS POLYPOD GEMS OUT OF THAT ADVENTURE BUT DID I GET A CLUE AS TO WHY I'M HERE? MAYBE I'D BETTER THINK OF HOMER'S ADVENTURE AND RICK'S...
RICK PURVIS IS DESPERATELY REVIEWING HIS OWN ADVENTURE ON THE DESERT WORLD YWAL OF THE STAR-SUN ACRUX...
I WAS HUNTING A NEW OBSTACLE COURSE TO BE USED IN A SPORTMAN'S RACE ON VENUS! I VANED DOWN ON YWAL WHEN I SPOTTED WHAT I WANTED. A STRANGE TUNNEL OF GLASS..
"I PLACED A GRAVITY BEAM ON THE LONG GLASS TUNNEL--WHICH WAS FILLED WITH VERY THIN WIRES BETWEEN WHICH SPORTSMEN WOULD RACE WITH JETS, WHEN.."
STOP! THAT GLASS TUNNEL BELONGS TO ME! I FORBID YOU TO TAKE IT!

"I WHIRLED TO CONFRONT AN ENERGY BEING WHO CALLED ITSELF ORGAL..."
HOWEVER, SINCE BY YOUR WORDS YOU ARE A SPORTSMAN, I'LL MAKE YOU A SPORTING PROPOSITION! IF YOU CAN WIN A RACE THROUGH THE TUNNEL--YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU! BUT--
IF YOU LOSE, YOU WILL BE UNABLE EVER TO LEAVE MY PLANET! CHOOSE, MAN OF EARTH!
I'M A SPORTSMAN! I'LL TAKE UP YOUR CHALLENGE! BUT WHO IS MY COMPETITOR GOING TO BE?
IN RESPONSE, ORGAL SENT A TENDRIL OF LIVING FLAME OUTWARD AND WITH ITS EXPLOSIVE ENERGY A FAMILIAR SHAPE TOOK FORM..."
YOU WILL RACE AGAINST YOURSELF! WIN--AND YOU GET THE TUNNEL! FAIL--AND YOU REMAIN HERE FOREVER
"EQUIPPED WITH JETS FROM MY SPACESHIP, MY DUPLICATE AND I JETTED INTO THE TUNNEL! I QUICKLY REALIZED I WAS HANDICAPPED ENORMOUSLY..."
MY OTHER SELF SEEMS TO AVOID THESE WIRES WITH EASE! I KEEP BUMPING INTO THEM! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--BUT WHAT?
"THE BRILLIANT SUNLIGHT OF ACRUX FLOODED THE TUNNEL THROUGH ITS GLASS! I SAW MY SHADOW FAR BELOW..."
HMMM--BY USING MY SHADOW AS A GUIDE NEAR THE BASES OF THE WIRES, I CAN EVADE THEM! I MAY NOT SEE THE WIRES BUT I CAN CERTAINLY SEE THEIR PATTERN!
"I PICKED UP SPEED AND SOON FLASHED BY MY RIVAL."
MY SHADOW IS LIKE THE SIGHT OF A GUN--I CAN USE IT TO AIM MYSELF SAFELY BETWEEN THE WIRES! I'M WINNING!

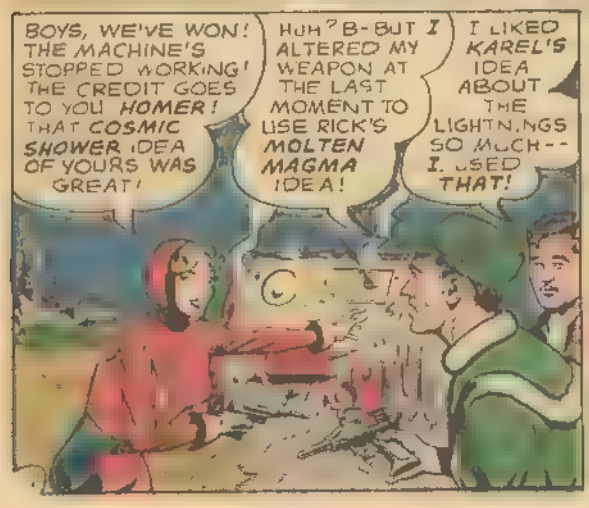
I WON AND ORGAL, TRUE TO ITS WORD, GAVE ME THE WIRED TUNNEL. I TOLD HOMER AND KAREL ABOUT IT. I WONDER IF THEIR ADVENTURES COULD REVEAL ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
HOURS LATER, ABOVE THE PLANET DRAHUT OF THE STAR-SUN CAPELLA...
HOMER!
KAREL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
RICK!
AS THE STAR ROVERS STEP FROM THEIR SPACESHIPS AND CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER, EACH IS CARRYING A WEAPON...
I TRIED TO GO BACK TO EARTH TO EXPOSE THOSE IMPOSTORS, BUT SOME FORCE KEPT ME AWAY!
ME, TOO! SO I FIGURED OUT THE SOURCE OF OUR DOUBLES AND CAME HERE!
SO DID I!
KS-08
CLINT
I REASONED THAT MY DOUBLE HAD WEIGHT AND SUBSTANCE--
BECAUSE IT SET OFF THE TRAP YOU LAID FOR IT!
SINCE OUR DUPLICATES ON EARTH MADE FOOTPRINTS, THEY HAD TO HAVE BOTH WEIGHT AND SUBSTANCE! ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS THE THINKING MACHINE OF DRAHUT THAT CAUSED THEM TO APPEAR ON EARTH!
NEITHER THE GREAT BRAIN NOR ORGAL COULD HAVE MADE THE IMPOSTORS ON EARTH BECAUSE THEIR DOUBLES WERE PHANTOMS!
RIGHT! MY DOUBLE WAS UNAFFECTED BY THE PARALYZING BURRS THAT HIT IT!
AND MY DOUBLE CAST NO SHADOW!
ON MY WAY HERE, I BEGAN WORK ON A WEAPON ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE THINKING MACHINE! IT SHOOTS OUT A SHOWER OF COSMIC PARTICLES!
MY WEAPON BY ABSORBING THE FORCES OF LIGHTNING IN THE ATMOSPHERE, SHOULD BLAST IT!
MINE UTILIZES THE UNDERGROUND POWER OF MOLTEN MAGMA! ONE OF OUR WEAPONS OUGHT TO STOP THAT THINKING MACHINE!

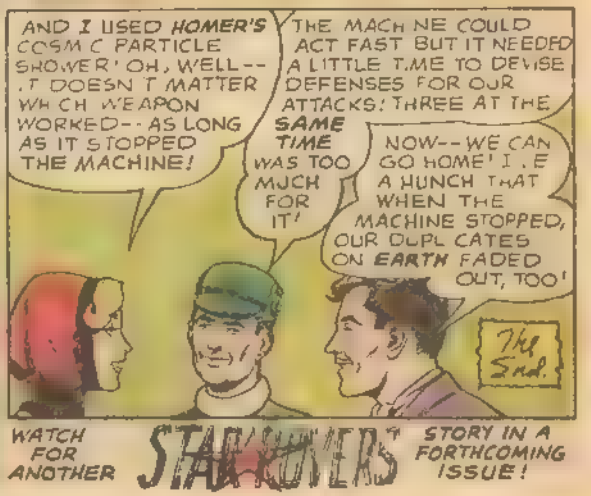
ARMED WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, THE STAR ROVERS ADVANCE UPON THE THINKING MACHINE...
FOOLS! YOU CANNOT HARM ME! I WAS CREATED A MILLION YEARS AGO BY PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET TO PROTECT THEM FROM ANY DANGER!
"NATURALLY THEY MADE ME INVULNERABLE! WITHIN SECONDS, I CAN REASON OUT A DEFENSE AGAINST ANY ATTACK OR MENACE! UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN A TERRIBLE CIRCUMCOSMIC TORNADO STRUCK THIS PLANET..."
THE TORNADO STRUCK WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT-- DESTROYED ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET BEFORE I COULD REASON OUT A DEFENSE AGAINST IT!
"EVER SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN WAITING, HOPING FOR OTHER LIFE TO COME TO ME! WHEN YOU LANDED, HOMER GLINT, I DECIDED ON A COURSE OF ACTION..."
I'LL SEND A DUPLICATE OF THIS MAN TO EARTH AND HAVE HIM BRING PEOPLE HERE-- REPOPULATE THIS PLANET--SO I CAN TRY TO PROTECT THEM WHEN THE CIRCUMCOSMIC TORNADO STRIKES AGAIN! IF I FAIL, I'LL TRY AGAIN... AND AGAIN... TILL I SUCCEED...
WHEN YOU ESCAPED FROM HERE, HOMER GLINT, I SENT DUPLICATES OF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, OF WHOM I LEARNED BY READING YOUR MIND--TO LURE PEOPLE HERE! I TELEPORTED YOU ALL AWAY FROM EARTH SO YOU WOULDN'T REVEAL THE TRUTH TO YOUR FELLOW EARTHMEN!


AT THAT MOMENT THE STAR ROVERS RAISE AND AIM THEIR WEAPONS...
I ALSO KEPT YOU AWAY WHEN YOU TRIED TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME PLANET, FOR THE SAME REASON!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU RISK EARTH-LIVES WHEN YOU TANGLE WITH THAT CIRCUMCOSMIC TORNADO AGAIN!
BESIDES, WE CAN NEVER GO HOME UNLESS WE STOP THAT MACHINE FROM WORKING!


SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE TITANIC ENERGIES OF THEIR WEAPONS BLAST FORTH, RINGING IN THE THINKING MACHINE BY AIR, LAND AND SKY.
I AM INVULNERABLE! I SHALL EASILY DISPOSE OF YOUR THREATS!

AS THE COSMIC PARTICLES AERIAL LIGHTNINGS AND MOLTEN MAGMA ASSAULT THE THINKING MACHINE, IT HURLS THEM BACK, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, UNTIL...
I OVERCOME ONE THREAT-- I OVERCOME THE SECOND THREAT-- I OVER.. AWWWKK!

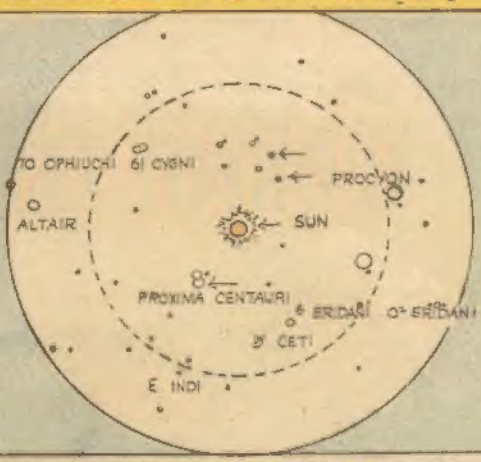

BOYS, WE'VE WON! THE MACHINE'S STOPPED WORKING! THE CREDIT GOES TO YOU HOMER! THAT COSMIC SHOWER IDEA OF YOURS WAS GREAT!
HUH? B-BUT I ALTERED MY WEAPON AT THE LAST MOMENT TO USE RICK'S MOLTEN MAGMA IDEA!
I LIKED KAREL'S IDEA ABOUT THE LIGHTNINGS SO MUCH-- I USED THAT!


AND I USED HOMER'S COSMIC PARTICLE SHOWER! OH, WELL-- IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WEAPON WORKED-- AS LONG AS IT STOPPED THE MACHINE!
THE MACHINE COULD ACT FAST BUT IT NEEDED A LITTLE TIME TO DEVISE DEFENSES FOR OUR ATTACKS! THREE AT THE SAME TIME WAS TOO MUCH FOR IT!
NOW-- WE CAN GO HOME! I HAVE A HUNCH THAT WHEN THE MACHINE STOPPED, OUR DUPLICATES ON EARTH FADED OUT, TOO!
THE END

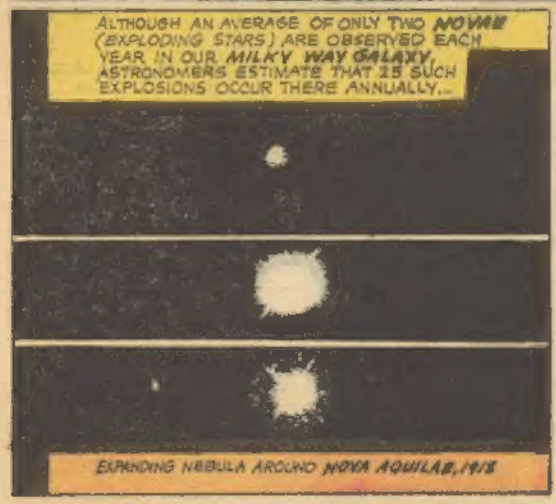
WATCH FOR ANOTHER STAR ROVERS STORY IN A FORTHCOMING ISSUE!

OUR STRANGE UNIVERSE!

WITHIN A RADIUS OF 16½ LIGHT YEARS (100,000-000,000,000 MILES) FROM EARTH THERE ARE 16 SINGLE STARS, 13 DOUBLE STARS AND 3 TRIPLE STARS..



ALTHOUGH AN AVERAGE OF ONLY TWO NOVAE (EXPLODING STARS) ARE OBSERVED EACH YEAR IN OUR MILKY WAY GALAXY, ASTRONOMERS ESTIMATE THAT 25 SUCH EXPLOSIONS OCCUR THERE ANNUALLY...



EXPANDING NEBULA AROUND NOVA AQUILAE, 1918

THE 50-TRILLION MILE WIDE SPHERICAL CLOUD THAT SURROUNDS THE FAINT CENTRAL STAR IN THE PLANETARY NEBULA NGC7293 IS MORE RAREFIED THAN ANY VACUUM WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE ON EARTH...

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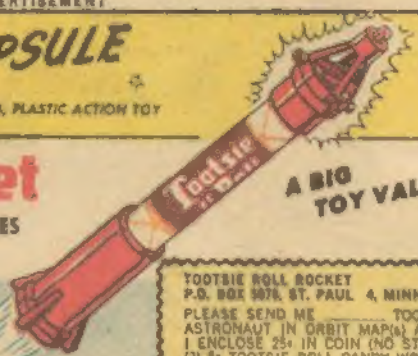
KIDS!! BLAST OFF YOUR OWN SPACE CAPSULE WITH THIS EXCITING, PLASTIC ACTION TOY

Tootsie Roll Rocket

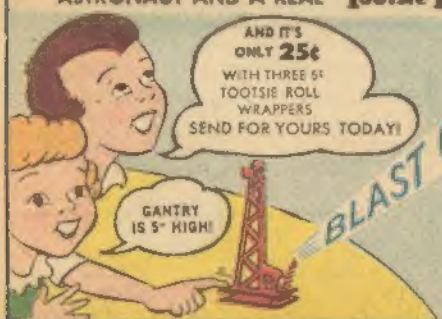
POWER-SPRING ACTION--ACTUALLY LAUNCHES ASTRONAUT AND A REAL Tootsie Roll!



SPACE CAPSULE SEPARATES FROM ROCKET!

A BIG TOY VALUE

FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FUN!



TOOTSIE ROLL ROCKET COMES COMPLETE WITH SPACE CAPSULE, ASTRONAUT, ROCKET SECTIONS, GANTRY TOWER, LAUNCH PAD, ASTRONAUT TARGET GAME MAP IN FULL COLOR AND A FREE TOOTSIE ROLL THAT YOU CAN REALLY EAT . . . !

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CITY _____ STATE _____

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SCALED IN 3-D
ALL PLASTIC - UP TO 5" LONG
Numerically classified below

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An action packed thrill a minute game. Each Commander maneuvers every ship with authentic tactics and controls sonar, mine laying, torpedo runs, plane launchings and ship to ship combat.

A COMPLETE **GAME $1.50**
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GIANT BATTLE AREA
2 GYRO INDICATORS
SIMPLE DIRECTIONS
A COMPARISON CHART of the two most powerful Navies in the World – United States and Russia

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2 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS* — 4 DESTROYERS
12 HEAVY CRUISERS*-** — 8 DESTROYERS*
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2 DESTROYER FRIGATES*-**
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☐ Special! Complete game and 132 extra toys (total of 264 toys) @ 2.50 ppd.
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GAME: Canada $2.00, Eng. 13/-, Aust. 16/-
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2 GIANT BATTLEFIELDS > total size of 3 square feet. (Six islands in the Pacific Ocean beautifully colored!)

88 PIECE TASK FORCE IN GRAY & GREEN
4 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS — 24 PLANES
4 DESTROYERS — 8 LANDING BARGES
4 BATTLESHIPS — 4 HEADQUARTERS
16 TANKS WITH MOVEABLE TURRETS
24 PILL BOXES

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325 RED MARKERS—enough to record the most savage bombings and shellings.

Simple directions etc. for 2 or 4 players, from 8 to 80 who enjoy being armchair generals.

Tension runs high as a big full scale battle looms with all elements participating on land, sea and air. The team best able to strategically place his forces and direct his firing will be the only battle survivor!
There is no imagination necessary here!! You get the equipment, the battlefield and the rules on how to Locate, Occupy and Destroy the enemy.
It is actually played and tremendously enjoyed by members of our real Armed Forces.

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SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS OF AGE

Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below with YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON IT

and I'll show YOU absolutely FREE

How to GAIN UP TO 50 LBS. OF MIGHTY MUSCLES!

or LOSE up to 50 LBS. of UGLY, DANGEROUS FAT

And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Are YOU SKINNY like I was?

a sickly skeleton who developed a streamlined physique and great physical endurance.

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at 50 years of age. A brilliant UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR,

authority on creating a HEALTHY MIND in a HEALTHY BODY,

says Dr. Winfield Scott Pugh, Commander U.S. Navy Medical Corps.

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick, Easy Methods How To

ADD POWERFUL NEW INCHES OF MUSCLES around YOUR ARMS, CHEST, LEGS, etc.

How to IMPROVE YOUR HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.

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How to BEAT ANY BULLY.

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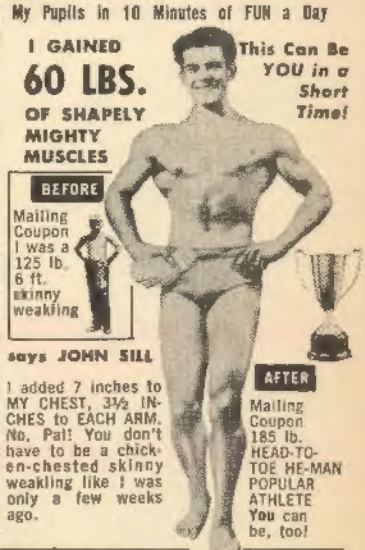
How to be a WINNER in EVERYTHING YOU TACKLE.

YES! Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES — won a BIG SILVER TROPHY, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and $100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man STRENGTH, his mighty ARMS, heroic CHEST, slender WAIST, rock-like TORSO, broad manly BACK, wide military SHOULDERS, new popularity with the BOYS and GIRLS. His winning drive in ALL SPORTS, his energy at work and studies.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a tower of strength and endurance.

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR CHEST, BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED, ENDURANCE. You'll become the SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN IN LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERYTHING, athletics, business, studies.

I GAINED 60 LBS. OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES



BEFORE

Mailing Coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 ft. skinny weakling

says **JOHN SILL**

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal! You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

AFTER

Mailing Coupon 185 lb. HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN POPULAR ATHLETE You can be, too!

This Can Be YOU in a Short Time!

This now MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES, 26 yr. old teacher, Wm. Butler,

says to YOU "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you to SEND for the ABC WONDER PICTURE COURSES at once. Under the World's greatest home training BODY BUILDER, I now have 18½" ARMS, a 52" CHEST, my STRENGTH has greatly improved. So have my sports. I have won titles like "Mr. Virginian." "Mr. State Y.M.C.A." etc.

How would **YOU** like to have 18½ inch ARMS, a 52 inch CHEST like this ABC pupil NOW HAS?

I BROKE A WORLD'S STRENGTH RECORD!

BEFORE

AFTER

JIM NORMAN became Athlete of the Year. Lifted the front End of a 2700 lb. Car. Quit being a bag-of-bones weakling like I was. In 10 minutes of fun a day, A.B.C. CAN DO FOR YOU ALL HE DID FOR ME! I gained 25 TERRIFIC LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES.

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DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES BY THE GREATEST METHOD!

Friend, I traveled the world, studying every secret to PERFECTLY develop your body. My "5-Way Progressive Natural Power Method" is TESTED-PROVED by hundreds of thousands LIKE YOU! SAVE YEARS, hundreds of DOLLARS! Do as movie stars, champions — John Sill, Jim Norman, Tony Pascarella — did! Mail coupon NOW!

Pick the kind of BODY YOU WANT

Check ALL Your Needs —

WIN A BIG Silver Trophy and $100 IN CASH

MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW and I'll Send You FREE these 5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED TEST COURSES

(before it is too late) as John Sill and the others did

PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU

MILLIONS were sold at $1.00. Send for them ALL FREE. Mail Coupon BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

AMERICAN BODY BUILDING CLUB, Dept. NC-35 GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

Mail me FREE all 5 WORLD FAMOUS STRENGTH TEST COURSES, including PHOTO BOOK of FAMOUS STRONG MEN, once weaklings, now famous Strong Men, and How to Become one of Them.

☐ I enclose 10c for mailing and handling.
I am under no other obligation.

I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want.

☐ I want to gain ____ lbs. (fill in). ☐ Triple my strength.
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.
☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ ARMS ☐ CHEST ☐ SHOULDERS ☐ POWERFUL LEGS ☐ SLIM WAIST
☐ I want to become a winning athlete. ☐ I want new pep.

NAME ____ AGE ____

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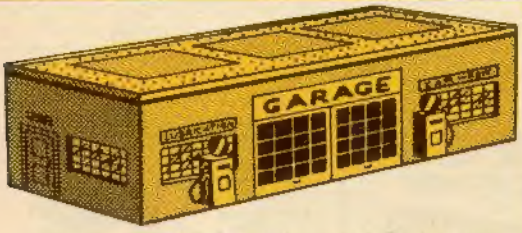
CITY ____ ZONE ____ STATE ____

FREE Sports, Self-defense, Strong-man Stunts, Courses Apparatus. Let me know how to get these FREE!

147 FAMOUS AUTOMOBILES



Comes packed in this special garage box in which to store your models!

KIDS! Here's the greatest assortment of famous cars from Grandpa's days to today! Yes, a model car for each year from 1915 thru 1963! And there's 3 each of each model so that you can trade them and save them! EACH MODEL HAS THE NAME OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND YEAR ON IT — each on its own base, 49 different models, 147 pieces to the set. Made of pure plastic styrene. Fun for you and the whole family. Comes in a garage box for storage when not in use! Send $2.49 money order or check with coupon.

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HERE'S A COMPLETE LIST OF CARS YOU GET

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1919 Franklin	1936 Terraplane	1953 Mercury
1920 Chevrolet	1937 Hupmobile	1954 Chrysler
1921 Case	1938 Ford	1955 Lincoln
1922 Mercer	1939 Packard	1956 Dodge
1923 Stearns	1940 Mercury	1957 DeSoto
1924 Chandler	1941 Plymouth	1958 Ford Thunderbird
1925 Locomobile	1942 Lincoln	
1926 Cleveland	1943 Nash	1959 Rambler
1927 Jordan	1944 Willys Jeep	1960 Valiant
1928 Kissel	1945 DeSoto	1961 Willys
1929 Auburn	1946 Dodge	1962 Chrysler
1930 Cord	1947 Kaiser	1963 Oldsmobile
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Auto Models, Dept. 23 **No C.O.D.'s**
Carle Place, L.I., N.Y.

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